



Old Testament Survey

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Group Exercises: Leader Guide

Welcome to Our Daily Bread University's (ODBU) Old Testament survey course. In this course, ODBU provides the content of the Old Testament survey through online lectures and related study materials. On the days when you meet with the students who are participating in the course, you, as the students' leader, will encourage them to interact meaningfully with the content they have already taken in. The purpose of this guide is to provide you with some ideas for activities and exercises that will challenge the students to engage and interact with the teaching.

These exercises and activities have been provided to us by Dr. Sid Buzzell, former Chairman of the Theology Department at Colorado Christian University. He used the ODBU courses in his teaching of both Old and New Testament survey to hundreds of college students each year. The suggestions he makes in this guide have already been tried in classrooms and proven to be successful teaching/learning tools. You now can benefit from his creative thinking and from his experience.

In addition to using Dr. Buzzell's materials, we want to encourage you to think of some exercises that will be unique to your personality and teaching style. Here are some general ideas of types of activities you might develop:

- 1. Provide additional information on the Bible book or topic you are discussing with your students. As you view the ODBU lessons the students are completing, you may think of additional information that you want to cover in your meetings using a short discussion. Feel free to add material as you desire, but keep in mind that you should allow time for students to interact with each other and, with your oversight and involvement, to engage with and apply the information they are learning.**
- 2. Exegetical Exercises. The importance of teaching students to exegete the biblical text cannot be overstated. While there is an enormous amount of material to be covered in a survey course, we cannot neglect Bible study skills. Periodically modeling the exegesis of a Bible passage in your meetings will contribute to their ability to read the Bible well.**
- 3. Discussion. Some topics lend themselves to open discussion on a particular topic led by the teacher. Often these discussions can be initiated by questions the students may have as they study the biblical text.**
- 4. Small-group discussion. You might break the group of students into smaller learning teams to discuss and/or debate on one of the topics or to share with one another their own exegesis and application of a passage or question.**
- 5. Case studies/problem-solving groups. You might give students a problem to solve or an example (fictional or actual) that will encourage discussion and application of the concepts taught in the lesson.**

Be creative and innovative. This kind of teaching is an opportunity to try new ideas, which will encourage students to be actively involved in learning. By the time they meet with the group, you know they have taken in the course material and have tested their level of understanding by taking a quiz. In the group meetings, the real assimilation of the material begins, and there is almost no limit on ways in which that engagement with the text can occur. So enjoy this course as you use the activities in this guide and as you develop your own style of interacting with students that will encourage their lifelong study of the Bible.

OT222 Proverbs - Psalms: Singing the Sounds of Real Life

222.1 Proverbs

Proverbs' Purpose: 1:1-6

1. In 3 minutes see how many “Purposes” for the Proverbs you can find. Underline each purpose you see.
2. Compile a list of purposes with a few others – Agree on how many and what they are.
3. Discuss the meaning of each of the purposes with your group.

Proverbs 1:1 The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel:

2 To know wisdom and instruction, to discern the sayings of understanding,

3 To receive instruction in wise behavior, righteousness, justice and equity;

4 To give prudence to the naive, to the youth knowledge and discretion,

5 A wise man will hear and increase in learning, and a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel,

6 to understand a proverb and a figure, the words of the wise and their riddles.

7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

222.2 Psalms

Read Psalm 51 a few times and then watch Philip Yancey's video, “**True Confession (Psalm 51).**”

1. Yancey made the important point that David asked for his devastating failure be used for good. Read verse 13 and then pause for a moment and write down what specific lesson we can learn from David's sin with Bathsheba and Uriah.
2. Meditate for a few minutes on verses 16 and 17 and then explain in a few sentences how David described his response to his sin. We could see verse 17 as a description of genuine repentance.
3. How does your sin affect you? Compare your response to your failure with David's prayer of repentance and plea for forgiveness that's expressed in this Psalm. What can we learn from David about repentance and restoration?