

# Gaining Decisions

How to Give Bible Studies?

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Look the same topic by: Judy Cheng

# You can gain decisions

Four steps people take in making decisions :

1. Information must be clear
2. Feel a conviction
3. Desire to do it
4. Take Action

# 1. Information

- *Profound truths presented in simple ways*
- Use of parables –unbelievers
- Picture story/ illustrations - emphasize
- Adequate/overkill to make right decision?

“One sentence of Scripture is of more value than ten thousand of man’s ideas or arguments.” Testimonies Vol 7 pg 71

“Be very careful how you handle the word, because that word is to make the decisions with the people. Let the word cut, and not your words.” Manuscript 42, 1894

# Structure of bible study

- First few studies :
  - 5 minutes make friends
  - 20 minutes give study, answer questions, appeal
  
- Subsequent studies
  - 10 minutes develop friendship
  - 45 minutes give study, answer questions, appeal

# How to prepare a bible study

- Christ Centred
- I present before you the great, grand monument of mercy and regeneration, salvation and redemption--the Son of God uplifted on the cross of Calvary. This is to be the theme of every discourse."  
5BC 1137

# Bible study structure

1. Christ Centred
2. Love Focused
3. Personal stories (minimum of Two)
4. Mark notes that you will emphasize
5. Application – how does this affect the persons life?  
(One per section minimum of three per study)

## At the end of each study

6. Applications/ appeal – make into a decision
7. Decision
8. Prayer

# Do's & Don'ts

- Don't over proof your subject

10 verses are adequate

15 verses are great

22 verses are over-kill!

*Hit the key points with bible verses and use them to answer questions*

- “It is not the best policy to be so very explicit, and say all upon a point that can be said, when a few arguments will cover the ground and be sufficient for all practical purposes to convince or silence opponents” Evangelism p.482

- Do NOT mention as fact those things can only be proven from The Spirit of Prophecy e.g. Mary Magdalene was the women caught in adultery.
- Do NOT allow your bible study be a social event or worse a gossip.
- Avoid controversial subjects early in the series
- “Do not at the outset press before the people the most objectionable features of our faith, lest you close their ears to those things which come as a new revelation” Evangelism p.201
- If asked, e.g. re Sabbath, jewelry, diet etc say “That is a good question, Would you like to study this topic?” Plan for it but later on in the series.
- *Keep to the order of bible study – truth is progressive!*



## 2. Conviction

- Conviction is an inner sense of what God wants
- Conviction grows, impulse is flighty
- Conviction needs to be actioned, otherwise dies out, eg. Felix Acts 24:24-25, rich young ruler
- “when a person who are under conviction are not brought to make a decision at the earliest period possible, there is danger that the conviction will gradually wear away” Evangelism p.298

# Discern whether the wind is blowing, trees are moving? Jn 3:1-7

- The Holy Spirit does the work, NOT us:
  - It can be seen
  - It can be heard
  - It can be evidenced

*Generally, a human agent must be involved in this process of decision.*

“When the truth is preached, there should be wise, understanding workers,.....who derive wisdom from the Source .....to make personal efforts for those who are under conviction.” - Manuscript Release Vol 3, p15

“Souls under conviction .....need to be visited and labored for ...” - Evangelism p.306

- “Your success will not depend so much upon your knowledge and accomplishments, as upon your ability to find your way to the heart.” – Evangelism p.437
- *Strike when the iron is hot!*

# Conviction – the most essential element

## Positive indicators

- Joy
- Sharing/ telling others
- Personal applications
- Tears
- Can't stay away
- Lighting up of live
- Becoming friendly
- Questions
- Studying
- Positive attitude changes
- Lifestyle changes
- Restitution
- Peace
- Praying about it
- E.g. Samaritan woman

## Negative indicators

- Sorrow
- Rejection
- Argument
- Tears
- Avoidance
- Anger
- Resistance
- Objections
- Refusal to study
- Negative attitude changes
- Rebellion
- Denial
- Restlessness
- Irritability
- E.g Peter's denial

# Barriers?

1. “I don’t fully understand all the truth yet”
  - John 12:35-36
  - take baby steps John 12:35-36
  - are the studies too cognitive/ not relational?
  - need a paradigm shift?
  - ***Interpretation → Application → Experience***

# 3. Desire

- Desire is wanting to act- it's from God!  
2 Corinthians 8:11
- Having a desire is not good enough – *Act on it!*
- Give benefits of right-doing vs consequences of wrong doing

***Interpretation → Application → Experience***

# Barriers?

2. “I need to put off changes as it makes them me feel uncomfortable.” or “I am not ready.”

- Matthew 6:31-33
- No middle ground- either heart is softened or hardened
- They think they have time

*Challenge them!* Matt 6:31-33 is a promise!

# Barriers?

## 3. Exaggerate the negative consequences

- “If I keep Sabbath my grades will go down”, “I do not think my family will accept that”
- 2 Corinthians 6:2
- Separate the “*need to*” from “*how to*”
- Strengthen & work on “*need to*”
- Leave the “*how to*” to God

*Show them success stories from bible & you!*



# 4. Action

Every bible study :

- Title/theme
- Appeal/outcome
- Application- to verbalise it
- Discern responses & pray accordingly

# Gaining decisions Questions

1. Did you learn anything new?
2. Was it clear?
3. Do you have any questions?
4. Is that your only question?
5. If that was clear would you . . . ?
6. Now that it's clear is there anything stopping you from . . . ?

**MEMORISE THESE QUESTIONS!!**

# Gain it by Prayer

- “Through much prayer you must labor for souls, for this is the only method by which you can reach hearts. It is .... The work of Christ who is by your side to impress hearts.” Evangelism p.342
- “accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, this work will not, cannot, be without fruit.” Evangelism p.459
- Pray for testing truths – involve cg members in prayers
- Pray for building of relationship
- Discernment & Wisdom

# Important relationship skills

- Develop friendship – anchor of bible study
  - Take an interest in them, their family and their interests
  - Render help whenever possible and necessary
  - Let them know that you are praying for them
- “Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me’.” Gospel Worker p. 363.2
- Friendship is the anchor.
- Fellowship gives the belonging.