

Types of Bible Studies

Lectio Divina

1. Read the lesson aloud slowly. (repeat as needed)
2. Meditate and experience the entire text
3. Pray over this text. Pray over the whole experience.
4. Contemplate over the text. Hear what it is saying to you.

Aural Method/African Bible Study

1. Read the passage aloud slowly. Listen for a word or phrase that sticks out.
2. Think of the word that sticks out. (Can be said to the group or silently. Only share the word, no explanation.)
3. Read the passage again using a different reader.
4. Think about what the passage means for you today.
5. Each person shares
6. Read the passage a third time using a third reader.
7. Think about what God is telling you to do or be this week.
8. Share with the group.
9. Pray for the person to your left naming what they shared.
10. Close in the Lord's Prayer

Remember it is always ok to pass. Others in the group should not share confidential information that was shared in the group.

3 Senses

1. Read the passage.
2. Think about the "literal sense" of the passage aside from any interpretation. Consider questions like: "What does this passage really say? Am I conflating the details, or mixing it up with some other passage? Am I bringing some particular point of view or bias to my reading?"
3. Share with the group.
4. Now think about the "historical sense" of the passage. Consider questions such as: "What is the historical context in which the passage was written? What did it mean to the people who heard it then?"
5. Share with the group.
6. Finally, think about the "prophetic sense" of the passage. Consider questions like: "What does this passage mean for me today? What is God saying to me in this passage? How should I respond to this passage?"
7. Share your insights with the group as you are comfortable.

Modern Application

1. Read the text.
2. Think about a modern situation that relates.
3. Write or talk about the situation unfolding.
4. Discuss as a group.
5. Identify a scene from your own life that relates to the new interpretation
6. Discuss how you will use what you've now learned.

The Reading- Matthew 5:14-16

New Revised Standard Version

14 “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. **15** No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Common English

14 You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can't be hidden. **15** Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on top of a lampstand, and it shines on all who are in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven.

King James Version

14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

The Message

14-16 “Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you’ll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.