

Divide the passage into 1-3 main points.

Write out point one

Kick Off question – (Do this last) make it a fun type of question that gets them talking, but in a round about way is connected to point one. Any question that gets them telling a story from their own life is good.

Observation questions – This is where we want to look at what the author is saying concerning your first point. Try to ask questions that force them to look back at their observations. Try to ask 2-4 of these.

Examples

- What did he say about...?
- How did he describe...?
- What commands did Peter give in verses 10-15?
- What ideas do you see repeated in the passage?
- What is the reason that Peter gives for always wanting to remind them of these things?
- What are the things he is wanting them to remember?

Interpretation questions – This is where we want to look at what the author means. It doesn't matter if you all have prepped inter questions for what you are going to ask. You will want to ask 2-4 of these questions.

Examples

- In verse 12 what do you think he means by...?
- Why do you think the author says...?
- What do you think Paul means when he says...?
- Why do you think this would have been impactful for the original readers?
- Why do you think John refers to God as light?
- In what ways can we compare God to light? What kind of qualities do each have?
- Why would light have been such an important issue to the original readers?

Illustration questions – This is where we want them to see how the concept plays out in the real world. We want real world examples of how they have seen it or how they could see it. We want examples of the consequences (good and bad) of whatever point you are taking them to. Ask 2-4 of these questions.

Examples

- What are some ways that this would play out in our life?
- Do you know someone who...?
- Have you ever seen...?
- What will happen if you...?
- What are some ways gossip hurts friendships? Churches? Bible Studies? Families?
- Have you ever seen a relationship broken because of gossip?
- What will be the consequences if we don't learn to control our tongue in our marriage? Job?
- Who is someone you know that just refuses to gossip?
- How do people view this person?

Application questions – This is where we want to bring it home. They know what the passage says about it and they know how it looks in the real world. Now they need to decide how they will apply it. Ask questions that they have to answer about themselves. Ask 2-4 of these.

Examples

- Ask the Who, What, When, How questions.
- Who are you most tempted to gossip about?
- In what situations does it tend to happen in? or When does it tend to happen?
- How are you going to make sure that you don't gossip about this person anymore?

I then start this whole process over with the other point I found in the passage. If you don't have time to get through it all that's o.k.

1. Come to the study prepared. Ask God to help you understand and apply the passage to your own life. Unless that happens, you will not be ready to lead others.

2. Begin the study on time. If people understand that the study begins on schedule, they will work harder to get to the meeting on time. But if you get into the habit of waiting for those who are late, they will assume that the discussion begins whenever they arrive.

3. Pray for the members of your group before the study. If the Bible is to have an impact on their lives, the Holy Spirit must be at work in their hearts before, during, and after the study. That's what makes a Bible study different from any other type of discussion. Jesus said in [John 15:5](#), "You cannot do anything without me."

4. Encourage more than one answer to each question. A good question should have more than one possible answer, and each person in the group has his or her own unique perspective. So be sure to ask, "What do the rest of you think?" or "Anyone else?" until several people have had a chance to respond. When you sense that people are ready to move on, ask the next question.

5. Don't be afraid of silence. It usually seems longer to you than to the other members of the group. People may simply need time to think before they respond.

6. If the silence persists, resist the temptation to answer your own question. Instead, try rephrasing the question until you are confident that the group understands what you are asking. Remember that even an eager group will quickly become passive and silent if they think you will do most of the talking. Of course, after everyone has had a chance to respond, you can share your own insights if you wish. But be careful not to dominate the discussion.

7. Never reject an answer, even if you think it is wrong. When you reject people's answers, it is easy for them to feel rejected as well, and they may decide that it is too risky to give their opinion again. Ask things like "Which verse led you to that conclusion?" Or let the group handle the problem by asking them what they think about the question.

8. Avoid going off on tangents. If people wander off course, gently bring them back to the passage and question being considered.

9. Be Bold. 2 Timothy 1:7 "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline." This is true of you! You can share the message of Christ boldly!

10. Be the Mayor. Be warm, inviting, welcoming. Individually greet everyone. Tell them you're glad they are here.

If you are just starting a bible study, here are steps to get it up and running!

1. **Set a time and place:** Figure out what works best for the people you are doing it with.
2. **Invite:** Send individual texts to everyone you are wanting there. A group message is NOT the move. Individual texts communicate intentionality!
3. **Prepare:** Have your bible study prepped beforehand, or go through a pre-made one to familiarize yourself with the content.
4. **Host:** Take charge of the room! They are here to receive what you are giving them. Be welcoming and start on time.

