

How to Plan a Campaigners Bible Study

Western Division Student Staff Weekend | Sean McGever

1. *The goal of all of Young Life:* Make disciples (Mt. 28:19-20)
2. *A template of a good meeting:* Fellowship, bread, teaching, prayer (Acts 2:42)
3. *Pick your approach for the content:* I recommend one of the Gospels or a book in the New Testament. Second priority would be a topical study. Either way, plan out your approach for an entire semester.
4. Pray and ask for the Lord's blessing on your time. This is better than any other prep you do.
5. Then make it BAD! Bible – Approach - Delivery

B – BIBLE

1. Study the passage you've picked to determine what it says. Usually it is best to pick less than a chapter of the Bible.
2. Work through these steps to help understand the passage:
 - a. Print out the passage on a piece of paper so you can write all over it.
 - b. Read the passage at least 10 times through, ideally out loud.
 - c. While you read it over and over, mark up the page. Underline key words, draw arrows to ideas that are connected. Write at least 2-3 questions about the text that you want to understand better.
 - d. Be aware of the "gap" of time, language, culture, experience.
 - e. Identify the "timeless truth" of the passage. What general (but maybe specific) idea would the original audience have understood that makes sense even today? Write this down.
 - f. Read the surrounding context, the sections before and after the section you are reading. Ask, why is this passage located here and not elsewhere?
 - g. Identify an appropriate application or challenge for today based out of the text.
 - h. Then, and only then, compare your findings with others (usually commentaries, but possibly sermons online too).
3. Stop and meditate on the passage. What is God saying to YOU? For you? Not for "others".

A – ARRANGE

1. Here you will arrange your findings into a plan to communicate it at campaigners.
2. Make an outline of the passage, noting where to stop and what needs to be explained. In my notes my short hand is "T:" for a part that I want to "tell", and "Q:" where I want to ask a question.
3. Get them to talk, prepare great questions.
 - a. People remember 70% of what they say and only 20% of what they hear.
 - b. Most of your questions should come from the main points of scripture.
 - c. I usually have a few introductory questions to get the theme going to open it up.
 - d. You must ask open ended questions that are carefully worded. They are questions that cannot be answered with a "yes" or "no". Write your questions out, don't wing them.
 - e. Like cabin time, you must be prepared to reword questions on the fly.
 - f. In some formats, have additional questions printed out for break-out groups.
4. Consider an illustration: an object (ideally from the text), a song, a video, acting out the story, etc.
5. Identify an honest personal experience related to the theme that you can share.
6. Make a list of several students you know will be there. Ask, "what would Jeff need to learn from this?" "What would Gabbie need to learn from this?" This will help your prep.
7. Know how long you have for your study and plan out how long each section will take.

D – DELIVER

1. Make sure everyone has a Bible in hand. Ask you Area Director to buy some if you need them.
2. Sit in a circle, all at eye level.
3. Explain in every campaigners how to find a verse (if you don't need to, then add new kids!)
4. Use your outline to have kids read scripture aloud. Pick a student to start, have them read one verse, then the person next to them reads the next verse until you are done.
5. For words they cannot pronounce have them say the word "Bob".
6. Questions:
 - a. It is OK to pick a specific student to answer a question.
 - b. When students answer, reword their answer back to them.
 - c. Pick part of their answer and ask them to tell you more about that part.
 - d. If a question you don't know come up, tell them "good question, I'll find out for next week."
 - e. Silence is OK, especially when it is a good question. (I count to ten in my head to calm my nerves.)
 - f. If a student dominates the conversation, just call on other kids by name.
7. Planning a time after to break up into small groups to discuss is always helpful, get them to talk and articulate their understanding of the Bible, remember 20% vs. 70%.

Example: Campaigners plan for Luke 4:14-21

Q: What kind of promises do politicians always make every time they want to get elected?

Q: What are some big goals people make for school/family/friends/etc?

Q: What is a big promise made to you that someone fulfilled?

Q: What is a big promise make to you that someone did not fulfill?

Q: What do you remember from the talk on Monday?

Read vv. 14-16 (each person one verse)

Q: Jesus had just got started (Lk 3), why do you think the people liked Jesus so much right from the beginning?

Q: What do you think it would have been like for Jesus to go back to his hometown "church"?

Read v. 17, have someone read Isaiah 61:1 and the first line of 61:2.

T: Isaiah was written 500 year before the time of Jesus. This would have been something the church would have read very often for 500 years.

Read v. 18

Q: What do you think it means when Luke says that the Spirit of the Lord is [on Jesus]?

Q: What does good news mean to the poor?

T: "Poor" is not just financial, it is any "advantage" others might not have. Think money, friends, family, opportunities. Maybe ask the previous question again.

Q: What does freedom look like for a prisoner? [this would also include release to the oppressed]

T: This also means spiritual freedom and freedom from sin. Ask again.

Q: How would it feel to have sight restored if you were blind?

T: This also means those who do not see the truth about God, the salvation, love, forgiveness He offers.

Read v. 19

T: In another translation it says, "To announce this is God's year to act!"

Q: If people had been hearing this for 500 years, what was Jesus announcing to them in a new way on this day?

Read v.20-22

Q: How are these things fulfilled in Jesus?

Questions for small groups

Q: Where in your life do you want good news? More freedom? Better spiritual insight?

Q: Based on what God is doing in your life right now how could this be "God's year to act" for you?