

Schedule of Meeting Times:

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM
 Study Sunday 10:00 AM
 Worship Sunday Morn 11:00 AM
 Worship Sunday Eve 5:00 PM
Singing every 2nd Sunday evening
 Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

Preacher / bulletin editor:

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"...[O]n that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ...Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word."

—Acts 8:1,4

**Servants during August:**

Songleader: Stanley (4), Larry (11),
 Dwight (18), Stanley (25)

Reading: Larry

Announcements: Marty

Table: Mike M, Larry, Stanley

Wednesday Lesson: Stanley (7), Kris (14),

Larry (21), Stanley (28)

Lawn Mowing (week starting): Kris (4),
 Marty (11), Stanley (18), Larry (25)

Area Meetings:

Vinemont, 4-7, Stephen Russell;
Needmore (Haleyville), 11-13, Terry
 Benton; **Gardendale,** 11-14, Lowell
 Sallee

Hays Mill church of Christ

21705 Hays Mill Road

Elkmont, AL 35620

The Bible . Examiner

"Examine everything carefully..." 1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB

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Practical Tips for Conducting a Bible Study

Part two of two

by Ken McDaniel

Last week's bulletin described how Ken and his wife Penny transitioned from being scared and intimidated, to conducting studies and leading people to salvation: training and preparation...

Now, concerning our questions about what to teach, how to prepare, and how to teach it. Let's assume that the desire is there. Let's also assume that we have someone in mind, or better yet, we have someone who has agreed to a study. How we approach that study will depend largely on their knowledge base and how we have framed the study to them. Do they realize they are lost and want us to help lead them to salvation? Are they lost but think they are saved and, in their mind, are just joining us for a friendly, edifying study? Are they lost and disagree with us on some issue, and are there to discuss it? Are they a brother in Christ and have agreed to a study for

one reason or another? All these factors will determine what we will teach, how we prepare, and how we will teach them.

Let's assume that the person is lost, has little or no Bible knowledge, and has agreed to study because they want to change their life and get to know God. Yes, these people are out there, many of them, and probably right under our noses. In the last several years, I have developed a series of open Bible studies (meaning no material is being used other than the Bible). But for many years, I used, and often still do, printed material designed to lead a person to salvation. The preparation for this type of study is done on the front end. You study the material, learn it well, and use it over and over. This is very effective because you become confident, credible, and proficient as you grow so familiar with it. This is the

approach I would highly recommend to most. Preachers, elders, and others who are mature and skilled in the word might prefer an open Bible study approach. Still, prepared material will get those less experienced and knowledgeable across the table from people much sooner and is often very effective in converting them.

Some may scoff at using prepared, “canned,” material as they may see it, but that does not prove such an approach ineffective or even inferior. All it suggests is that it is not the approach for them. Often, they imagine that such material could never be sufficient to address all the misconceptions or all the arguments that will certainly come up in a study. And surely people would feel insulted that you would try to use such a childish approach on them. All these concerns are valid for a fraction of the studies one might teach, but most people who agree to a study have no idea where the book of Matthew is, what the church is, or how to be saved—seriously. So, well-developed material in the hands of one who has internalized it is very effective. Again, with this approach, the preparation is done before ever having your first study. You learn the material and how to teach it and then use it repeatedly. If it is good and you become effective in teaching it, you will likely see many experience the joy that follows their salvation.

Our next consideration is where to have the study. In years gone by, almost everyone agreed for you to come to their home, but not so today. Some will agree to come to your home. Others will meet you at the church building.

Some will agree to a place like Starbucks, Panera Bread, a library, etc. Wherever you meet, they need to feel comfortable and be as distraction free as possible.

When the study begins, if it is a typical evangelistic study, you will be in the position of “teacher.” This means you will need to take the lead but remember to be humble and polite. When it’s time to begin, you can shift attention to the study and lead a prayer. Next, let them know what you will be covering. Suggest that you take turns reading the scriptures (if they are comfortable reading) but that you would like them to answer the questions. In the teacher role, I always read each question and allow them to answer, rather than having them read the question and answer it also.

Try not to be nervous, and don’t rush the student. Often, they will not answer the question right away, and we might tend to answer it for them just because we are trying to help. Instead, let them search the passage and find it for themselves. Give them a little time. At the most, direct them to the specific verse that the answer is in. If they still don’t get it, back up and cover what they need to know to comprehend what they are missing. Don’t worry. Most of the time, just giving several seconds is all they need to get the answer. It is much better to let them find it in their Bible than for you to give it to them.

Keep the study on track. Questions are good, especially if they are on topic because they show that the person is engaged and seeking to understand. If the question is off-topic, deflect it by

saying something like, “That’s a good question. If you don’t mind let’s wait till the end of the study, and I will be happy to answer it.” Or, if you know it will be covered later in the study or a subsequent study, just let them know that you will cover it then. You are in control. Getting off track can and will likely sabotage the study.

Reinforce correct answers. When they answer correctly, simply respond with, “good,” “excellent,” “outstanding,” but do not overdo it and be genuine in your support. With this approach, when they answer incorrectly and do not hear that gentle affirmation, it will catch their attention. You can then respond with something like, “Take a look again at verse seven.” This is a simple but powerful tool.


When the study concludes, the student is almost always at ease and happy with what they have learned. They are usually very willing to meet again for the next study, so set it up then with a specific time and place. Ideally, the material you have chosen will lay the foundation they need, and in a few short weeks, or sooner, they will come to salvation.

There is certainly much more we could discuss (three months more in keeping with the training Penny and I

received), but hopefully there is enough here that some will find it helpful. I would add that to get started, find some material you are comfortable with or learn an open Bible study approach that you can use over and over. Ask your preacher and/or elders for suggestions. Check with “brotherhood” bookstores. Find something that works for you and study it till you know it well. Then, start asking for studies. They will come.

I would also recommend that you seek a mentor who is active and effective in “one-on-one evangelism.” This can help fast-track your preparation tremendously.

In closing, let’s be honest with ourselves. Not everyone is able to teach, even if they have a burning desire to share what they have found with others. Not to worry. If this is you, rest assured that you are very needed and can be extremely helpful in the kingdom. You can create interest and lead people to those who can teach and in doing so share in the joy of their salvation. But with some training, many of us can teach. May God bless you in your efforts to prepare yourself and to help seek and save the lost.

—via *The Pepper Road Church of Christ Weekly Bulletin*, Feb 18, 2024 

Remember in Prayer

Mike B is considering heart surgery, and will shortly be starting a new round of chemotherapy.

Please continue to pray for those

other brethren we know and love, including **Carolyn; Betty; Hazel; Kathy Mitchell;** and **the Pollard Family.** 