

LEADERSHIP LESSON # 79: EFFECTIVE ELEMENTS OF ADULT BIBLE STUDY

OUTLINE BY JOHN P. JOHNSTON

Usually, when we think of adult Bible study, we envision a group of adults sitting in a room while a teacher presents a lesson. Certainly that is an important aspect on adult Bible study, but it is only one element.

The key elements in making adult Bible study effective are:

1. **An Outward Focus** – You have to reach people before you can teach people. Efforts must be made to invite and encourage people to attend.
2. **A Welcoming Environment** – Providing a welcoming environment is essential to effective group Bible study. People need to feel accepted by other group members and the meeting place should be comfortable with adequate lighting.
3. **Thorough Preparation** – The teacher should spend adequate time during the week in study, preparing for the lesson. Using the Bible, teaching materials and other aides, the teacher should be well-steeped in the lesson he plans to teach.
4. **Engaging Presentation** – The teacher should present the lesson in a manner that is interesting and appropriate for the group. This entails advance planning and a willingness to learn and employ a variety of teaching methods.
5. **Clear Application** – For adult Bible study to be truly effective, a clear example of application should be provided. It's not enough for a group to simply gain biblical knowledge, they need to be challenged to live out their faith during the week.
6. **Good Time Management** – Most adult Bible study classes have a set amount of time to meet, usually an hour give or take a few minutes. It's important to utilize the time well, allowing for fellowship, administrative tasks and prayer without sacrificing teaching time.
7. **Flexibility** – While preparation and a good lesson plan are necessary, the wise teacher will allow for those moments when "God shows up." Be sensitive for times when people need to share a testimony, ask probing questions, or spend time in a season of prayer.
8. **Follow-up** – Follow-up is usually thought of as contacting guests to your class. Certainly that is an important aspect of effective adult Bible study groups. But we should also be ready to follow-up on how we applied the previous week's lesson or be ready to provide an answer to a challenging question from the previous week.
9. **Caring Ministry** – Perhaps the most attractive element of a small-group Bible study is the way the members express love and concern for one another. Establishing care groups ensures that individual members don't fall through the cracks. Meeting needs during times of crisis and celebrating in happy times helps draw people closer together and serves as a testimony to others of the love of Christ within.
10. **Focus on Jesus** – The most essential and effective element is to lift up Jesus in your teaching and share the gospel frequently.

LEADERSHIP LESSON # 79: EFFECTIVE ELEMENTS OF ADULT BIBLE STUDY

OUTLINE BY JOHN P. JOHNSTON

Usually, when we think of adult Bible study, we envision a group of adults sitting in a room while a teacher presents a lesson. Certainly that is an important aspect on adult Bible study, but it is only one element.

The key elements in making adult Bible study effective are:

1. _____ – You have to reach people before you can teach people. Efforts must be made to invite and encourage people to attend.
2. _____ – Providing a welcoming environment is essential to effective group Bible study. People need to feel accepted by other group members and the meeting place should be comfortable with adequate lighting.
3. _____ – The teacher should spend adequate time during the week in study, preparing for the lesson. Using the Bible, teaching materials and other aides, the teacher should be well-steeped in the lesson he plans to teach.
4. _____ – The teacher should present the lesson in a manner that is interesting and appropriate for the group. This entails advance planning and a willingness to learn and employ a variety of teaching methods.
5. _____ – For adult Bible study to be truly effective, a clear example of application should be provided. It's not enough for a group to simply gain biblical knowledge, they need to be challenged to live out their faith during the week.
6. _____ – Most adult Bible study classes have a set amount of time to meet, usually an hour give or take a few minutes. It's important to utilize the time well, allowing for fellowship, administrative tasks and prayer without sacrificing teaching time.
7. _____ – While preparation and a good lesson plan are necessary, the wise teacher will allow for those moments when "God shows up." Be sensitive for times when people need to share a testimony, ask probing questions, or spend time in a season of prayer.
8. _____ - _____ – Follow-up is usually thought of as contacting guests to your class. Certainly that is an important aspect of effective adult Bible study groups. But we should also be ready to follow-up on how we applied the previous week's lesson or be ready to provide an answer to a challenging question from the previous week.
9. _____ – Perhaps the most attractive element of a small-group Bible study is the way the members express love and concern for one another. Establishing care groups ensures that individual members don't fall through the cracks. Meeting needs during times of crisis and celebrating in happy times helps draw people closer together and serves as a testimony to others of the love of Christ within.
10. _____ – The most essential and effective element is to lift up Jesus in your teaching and share the gospel frequently.