*Session 17*

*How to Prepare Bible Studies*

Goal of Bible study: to proclaim the gospel to people can respond

2 Timothy 3:17

1 Corinthians 1:21

1. **Theological Assumptions to Bible Study and Sermon Building**
2. **Our Goal: To be Made into Christ’ Likeness**

1 Corinthians 2:16; Philippians 2:5; Romans 12:1-2

1. **Developing the Mind of Christ**

2 Corinthians 3:16

1. **Mission**
2. **Serving as God’s Voice**

Ephesians 4:11-16; 2 Timothy 4:2

1. **What is authority?**
* Authority is the ability to shape thought and behavior.
* Authority is always communal and contextual.
* Authority is always relational.
* Genuine authority simply exists by itself and does not need coercion.
1. **Levels of authority in interpretation**:
2. The text contains the highest authority.
3. The interpreter derives authority from the text.
4. The interpreter shares or applies this derived authority to speak to others.
5. **When we preach/teach, where does the authority lie?** Bible, speaker, listener?
6. **How much authority do our messages have?**
7. **How can we make sure our messages have authoritative?**
8. **Allowing the Bible to be God’s Word to us today**
	* + 1. The purpose of the Bible is salvation.
			2. The substance of our preaching/teaching must come from the revelation of God found in the Bible.
			3. Dangers to avoid: poor exegesis that results in confusion, not taking seriously the message that we receive, using the Bible for our own agenda.
			4. The Bible accurately records God’s words for us today, and preachers must help people understand this in contextually appropriate ways.
9. **Sermon or Bible Study?**

Differences between a sermon and Bible study

1. **How to Prepare a Bible Study**
2. **Pray**
3. **Choose a passage**
4. **Read the passage**
5. **Identify the key theme(s)**
6. **Develop an outline**
7. **Ask Good Questions**
8. **Answer the key questions**
	1. Study the details of the passage: words, phrases, key themes
	2. Do necessary background study (history, culture)
	3. Look up key words
	4. Consider the theology of the Bible
9. **Connect to the needs of your group**
10. **Prepare the Lesson**:
	1. **Date**
	2. Identify the **Group/Occasion**
	3. State the **Passage**
	4. Give the study a short **Title**
	5. List **Other Bible Passages** that can be used with the study
	6. Give the **Key Idea** of the passage in one sentence.
	7. Give the **Goal** of the lesson based on the key idea of the passage: How do you want the group to respond to this study?
	8. **Lesson Opening**: How will you start the lesson? Choose a story, activity, or discussion question that is interesting and will get people involved.
	9. **Bible Study**: Use the outline and questions from your person study as the basis for the group study.
	10. **Application**: How do you want the group to respond? Think of practical ways, questions, stories, that connect the passage to their lives.
	11. **Lesson Closing**: How do you want to end the lesson? Plan this ahead of time.
11. **Pray**

**Big Ideas**

1. An important skill for a pastor to have is how to develop a exegetically sound, clear, and relevant Bible Study.
2. The authority of the interpreter (pastor) depends on how much his or her message is consistent with the message of the Bible. It is not our voice which speaks but God’s.
3. A Bible study is usually more interactive with the audience than a sermon.
4. Developing a quality Bible study involved careful exegesis, asking and answer questions, background research, and organization.