

St Matts Youth - Bible Study Preparation Checklist

PRAY: As people who acknowledge that God is sovereign it is absolutely essential that we pray. You need to pray for your own benefit as you interact with God's very own words in the bible – that God would humble you, that you'd be hit up yourself by scripture, that God would use you in your weakness and that by God's mercy your youth group kids might be hit up too.

PASSAGE GEAR: At youth group the passage is usually selected for you in preparation for talks/studies etc. In MAD groups however this can be left up to you. When passages have been selected for you, careful thought has gone into the structure of the text and the ideas that are conveyed. When selecting passages for studies yourself, it's important that you do the same.

BIBLE TEXT: _____

GROUP: _____

READ AND RE – READ PASSAGE:

THE PASSAGE – WHERE IS IT PLACED?

BROAD CONTEXT

Read the entire book if you can, or read an overview of the book so you understand the big picture and comfortably answer the questions below.

- What is the purpose of the book? (e.g. an account of Christ's life) _____

- What is the setting of the book? (e.g. believers in Rome, Jew and Gentile) _____

- Work out a brief outline of the book: _____

CLOSER CONTEXT

- What's happened just before? _____

- What happens just after? _____

OBSERVATION (WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?)

WHO?

- Who is the author/Who is speaking? _____
- Who is the author speaking to? _____

SUMMARIZE THE PASSAGE

WHAT?

- What is being said in the text? _____

- What is the key verse / verses? _____
- What is being emphasised in the text? (e.g. what's the big idea?) _____

WHY?

- What questions come to mind about this text? _____

- What direct questions does the author / writer raise? What imperatives (commands) does he make?

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

- Can you make any distinctions between what is **descriptive** vs. what is **prescriptive**? (e.g. David's wife stealing vs. Paul's urge to love one another) _____

- What response does the author/speaker ask for, if any, from his audience? hint: look for verbs (they are the doing words ☺) _____

- What response is necessary for us today? hint: look for verbs (they are the doing words ☺) _____

STUDY DESIGN: Only by the time you've reached this point are you ready to start writing up the questions that will make up your kids' study. The reason being, that it's only at this point that you have an informed picture in your mind of what the passage is actually saying (it's super important to let the passage dictate what is being said – after all, we believe it to be the authoritative word of God – therefore, we need to let it set the agenda. If we don't, we may miss the point completely.)

When you design your study, you've got to remember that the kids won't have an informed picture in their minds like you will. Therefore you've got to design the study so as to reveal it to them piece by piece, so they can put it together piece by piece, resulting in an informed picture that God will use to hit them up, just like with us as we prepare.

When you look back over the questions you've answered above, you'll find that a lot of your content for the study will exist in your answers. It will be a matter of formulating the answers you've come up with into questions and considering how you will relate those questions to your particular youth group kids.

PRAY: Remember to be thankful for the way that God has revealed himself to you in the passage. Continue to pray for your own benefit as you think about the study you've prepared – that God would continue to humble you, that you'd be hit up yourself by scripture, that God would use you in your weakness, and that the kids the study is prepared for might be hit up and God glorified.

IMPORTANT: If you are not writing the study but are going to be co-leading the study you will still need to put in effort to read and understand the passage!

Writing a good bible study is not heaps easier or less important than writing a talk. We should never leave it to the last minute or the night before!