

PREPARING TO TEACH A SCRIPTURE WEEK OR WEEKEND

Our Hearts, Our Partnerships, These Students, the Text, and the Environment

A week or weekend of manuscript study can be life-changing. Do you remember how Jesus came to life and impacted you profoundly through the gospel of Mark or another text? Take a moment to remember a few of those significant encounters and give thanks for the staff who led those studies for you.

Manuscript teachers are like the Levites setting up the tabernacles in the wilderness so that Israel had a sacred space to encounter God. Preparation is hard work, but it is also a priestly duty. We do the work in faith that these Scripture studies will become like the tent of meeting where students can meet the living God. We trust that our studies together will be places of repentance, cleansing, healing, worship, and receiving calling. We believe that, like the pillar of cloud that stood over the tent of meeting, God will speak to our students and lead us more deeply into God’s purposes and mission.

PREPARING OUR HEARTS – Spend time with Jesus, preparing your heart with these questions:	
How is your relationship with Jesus? When was the last time you had an extended period alone with him? Are there any areas of sin you need to confess? What needs should you express to Jesus?	<i>When and where will I have this reflection time with Jesus? What will I bring?</i>
How eager are you to meet Jesus in the Scripture you will be studying and leading? What will help you increase your expectation and motivation?	<i>After reflection, in what additional ways do I need to prepare myself spiritually before I teach?</i>
What do you need from Jesus in order to be in the best possible spiritual shape as a teacher?	

PREPARING OUR PARTNERSHIPS	
Early on, meet with your teaching team: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decide who will teach which passages. • Track your participant list. • Pray for each other and the students. 	<i>Who is my team? What sections will I teach?</i> <i>What will the participant community be like?</i>
Meet again to share your progress with prep: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share your key questions, core message, and plan for application. Ask for feedback on the prep you have done. • Plan your inductive method training. • Plan touchpoints for prayer and debrief with your team during the week(end). • Ask each other what you find most supportive – favorite snacks, notes of encouragement, affirming feedback, etc. • Pray for each other and the students. 	<i>When will we meet to share our progress?</i> <i>When will we meet during our week(end)?</i> <i>How will I honor and recognize my team?</i>

PREPARING FOR THESE STUDENTS – Reflect on your participants, calling their staff if needed:

What are their motivations and expectations coming into the week(end)?	<p><i>What should we keep in mind about these students as we lead them?</i></p> <p><i>In what specific ways do I want to see these students grow? What is my prayer for them?</i></p>
Is there anything significant that has happened on campus or in their chapter in the recent months?	
How familiar are they with inductive study? What are their skill needs and how can we train them?	
Pray and ask Jesus what he wants to do for the students who will be in your Bible study.	

PREPARING THE TEXT – Meet God in the text *before* you lead others to meet God in the text.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set aside 1.5-2 hours for each passage. • Start with a blank manuscript. • Thoroughly observe the text and research the historical and cultural context. • How does each passage fit within the entire book as a whole? • Generate as many questions as you can, and sharpen 4-5 great questions (TIGHT). • Are there observations, questions, or insights to add from old manuscripts? • Draft a summary, core message, and personal illustration story. • Write 3-4 applications that arise from different themes. Apply to your life! • THEN (only then) look at teaching notes from someone else. 	<p><i>When do I plan to prep my passages?</i></p> <p><i>What help do I expect I will need as I prepare?</i></p> <p><i>Who will I reach out to when I need that help?</i></p>
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PREPARING THE ENVIRONMENT – Plan for a health learning and community atmosphere:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snacks • Supplies for social activities • Supplies for creative application • Handouts and props for inductive training • Manuscripts of all the passages • Poster-sized manuscripts for Mark page 1 and any other Inductive Proclamation • Summary props for starting Mark 2 • Colored pencils or pens • Easel, paper, markers, and painters' tape • Concordances and Bible dictionaries 	<p><i>What will I bring from home?</i></p> <p><i>What do I need to borrow? From whom?</i></p> <p><i>What do I need to buy?</i></p>
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