

A Bible Study For Groups

~Leader's Copy~

The Episcopal Church believes that the Holy Scriptures are the revealed word of God and that they have a central and unique position regarding authority in the church. Our study of scripture is informed by the Tradition of the church and human Reason guided by the Holy Spirit. Because of that, we are all encouraged to read the Gospel and share with others how God is speaking to us. God speaks to each person who reads the Bible out of their own cultural and personal experiences - regardless of age or position of authority or level of education.

The following form of Bible study is often called the "African" or "Lambeth" Bible Study because it was introduced by the African Delegation to the Lambeth Conference of the Anglican Church.

1. One person reads the passage slowly. *Ask the group to identify a word or phrase that catches their attention.*
 - a. Chose a male reader the first time and a female the second time and either the third.
 - b. Chose someone who has a "gift" for reading – who will read clearly.
2. Each person identifies the word or phrase that catches their attention
 - a. Give the group approximately one minute to reflect
3. Each shares the word or phrase around the group
 - a. This will take about 3-5 minutes, or more depending on size
 - b. Remind people there will be NO DISCUSSION
 - c. Remind people that there are no incorrect answers
 - d. Everyone should be "invited" to speak, but anyone may "pass"
4. Another person reads the passage slowly. *Ask the group to identify a passage that touches their life today*
 - a. Look at "1" for suggestions
 - b. This could be from a different translation
5. Each person identifies where this passage touches their life today
 - a. Give the group approximately one minute to reflect
 - b. You can also ask the question, where is God calling this group
...or what Wisdom does God have for you, or the group today
6. Each shares
 - a. Look at "3" for suggestions
7. Passage is read a third time. *Ask the group how God is inviting them to live into this passage – what does God want them to be or to do?*
 - a. Look at "1" for suggestions
 - b. This could be from a different translation
8. Each person identifies where God is inviting them
 - a. Give the group approximately one minute to reflect
 - b. This reflection can also be written
9. Each person shares their answer
 - a. Look at "3" for suggestions
10. Each prayers for the person on their right
 - a. This will take approximately 5 minutes – depending on size of group
 - b. The person praying may naming what was shared in the other steps
11. Close with the Lord's Prayer and SILENCE.

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1. One person reads the passage slowly.
2. Think of a word or phrase that catches their attention
3. Each person can share the word or phrase with the group
4. Another person reads the passage slowly.
5. Think of a passage that touches your life today
6. Each person can share that passage
7. Passage is read a third and final time.
8. Think of where God is inviting you – Where does God want you to go? What does God want you to do?
9. Each person can share his or her answer
10. We are invited to go around the circle and pray for the person on our Right
11. Close with the Lord's Prayer and SILENCE.

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