

THE DISCUSSION OF SCRIPTURE

- 1. Jesus regularly taught inductively and Socratically.**
 - a. He asked a lot of questions.
 - b. He told a lot of parables.
 - c. Personal interaction is the best way to learn.
 - (1) **Dt 6:20-21** 20 When your son asks you in time to come, What is the meaning of the testimonies, the statutes, and the rules that Yahweh our God has commanded you? 21 then you shall say to your son....
- 2. As believer-priests, we are able to instruct one another.**
 - a. **Ro 15:14-15** 14 I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another [inductive discussion]. 15 But on some points I have written to you very boldly [deductive teaching] by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God....
- 3. Get others to think; don't think for them.**
 - a. We need to teach our children how to think as much as what to think.

Tips for Planning the Discussion

- 1. Complete the homework early.**
- 2. Meditate on and begin to apply what you've learned.**
- 3. Develop the skill of asking great questions.**
 - a. Ask short, simple, thought-provoking questions.
 - (1) "Do you believe the story of Jonah really happened in history?"
 - b. Ask questions you don't know the answer to.
 - c. Let the group know what questions puzzled you.
 - d. Ask lots of why? questions.
 - e. Consider using the *Precept Upon Precept Leader Guides*.
- 4. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you.**
 - a. Pray for the small group participants by name.
 - b. Ask for a miracle to happen every night you facilitate.

Tips for Facilitating the Discussion

- 1. Give the group a roadmap.**
- 2. Remind about the ground rules.**
- 3. Read the passage together, if time allows.**

- 4. Don't teach. Talk less than 20% of the time.**
 - a. "People remember what they say, not what you say."

- 5. Don't be afraid of silence.**
 - a. Give your group time to think. Wait as long as you need to.
 - b. Repeat or rephrase questions, if necessary.

- 6. Show genuine interest in what others have to say.**
 - a. Share your own insights enthusiastically as part of the group.

- 7. Stay on topic.**
 - a. Respect the homework group members have done.
 - b. Don't spend too much time on cross-references.
 - c. When necessary, gently refocus the conversation back to the text at hand.

- 8. Keep everyone involved.**
 - a. Ask participants to keep comments relatively short. 4-5 sentences should suffice.

- 9. End with application.**
 - a. Ask for concrete, every day applications.
 - b. Offer a challenge. For example, ask participants to post on social media each one truth they learned from their study.

- 10. Invite positive and negative feedback.**
 - a. The facilitator should share first.

Notes