

The Gospel Project for Adults, Summer 2015  
Extended Instructional Approaches for Session 1

**Introduction: *Engage your group members with the subject.***

Ask, “How many of you read the Bible this week? Who would be willing to tell us what you read last? What does it mean? What does God want you to do with it?” Don’t be surprised if many of your students have not read the Bible this week and/or can’t recall what they read, what it means, or how to apply it. The purpose of this exercise is not to embarrass anyone but to get members thinking about the importance of these first six lessons.

**Part 1: *Engage your group members by having them think more deeply about the topic.***

Ask, “Think back to when you were dating. Did you write/email your fiancé regularly? How often? Why?” The class members should recall that they regularly contacted their respective loved ones. They should also relate such ideas as, “I love them and I wanted them to know,” “It was a way for us to get to know each other better,” etc.

God gives us His Word as a means to an end. The ultimate goal of Bible reading should be to get to know God better. Since He is invisible, we cannot learn about Him fully in the typical ways we do with human beings. God has lovingly condescended to give us His Word so that we can know Him better.

**Part 2: *Check for understanding.***

Tell your group members each to imagine that they have just had a relative die and have been asked to be at the reading of his will because they are included in it. When the will is read, they find that they have inherited the bulk of the deceased’s fortune. Ask, “If the will had never been read, would you have known what the relative wanted to do for you? God has given us His will as well. It’s His Word. If we don’t read it, how will we know what He has for us and what He wants us to do?”

**Part 3: *Engage their thinking by connecting with the theme of the section.***

One of the emphases of this section is on joy or finding pleasure in something. Have your students spend about five minutes writing down on a piece of paper how they spend their time during an average week. After this is finished, have them evaluate what they spend their time and money on the most. We tend to place the most time and money into those things we value the highest. Understandably, things such as sleep and a job will take up large chunks of time. The real analysis should be on those areas of their schedules that are not mandated by employment or sleep.

**Conclusion: *Challenge for application.***

The lesson emphasizes the reading of God's Word. Many group members may have an aversion to reading or even have difficulty reading. There are a variety of reasons for this: improper education, learning disorder, etc. Encourage each student to begin to read or *listen* to the Bible regularly. You can find several reading and listening plans on websites such as YouVersion. This site has the Bible on audio. This is a helpful tool to assist while one is reading. It can also supplement your reading while you are exercising or driving. The most important thing is that the student is regularly partaking of God's Word.

**Teaching Tip of the Week**

Learning is built on a foundation. Our job as teachers is to build effectively on that foundation so that learning can occur because real learning does not take place in a vacuum. Ensure that you spend time in God's Word to build your foundation. Then, spend time thinking about your group members. What do they already know? That is, what is their foundation? Now, what do you want to add to that foundation? Ask God to give you principles from His Word to aid in this building.