The Gospel Project for Adults, Winter 2016-17

Interactive Teaching Tips for Adults, Session 11

**Introduction: *Engage your group with Scripture passages that reinforce the theme.***

Before your group arrives, place a tear sheet on the focal wall with the phrase “God's word is…”

Also, write these Bible verses on index cards:

* 2 Timothy 3:16-17
* Psalm 119:105
* Joshua 1:8
* Matthew 4:4
* Psalm 119:10-11
* 1 Timothy 4:13
* Romans 15:4
* Hebrews 4:12

Before your group members arrive, place the index cards with the verse citations on each of their chairs. Lead the group members to each read his or her respective passage. After reading the passages, ask them to complete the sentence “God’s word is…” based on what their individual passages teach.

**Point 1: *Stimulate your group with examples.***

The proclamation of the Word combined with gathering together to hear the words of the Lord is a powerful thing.

Before your group meets, print pictures of gatherings of people, some large and some small. Some of examples of things to print might include: a football game, New Year's Eve in Times Square, a church service, a “Passion” conference event, a camp worship service, a business meeting, or a small-group Bible study.

As you hold up the pictures, say something like the following: “There is something special about being gathered together with other people for one purpose. What is unique about gathering together for the proclamation of the Word?”

In Nehemiah 8:1-2, the people of Israel have gathered together for a special proclamation of the Word; they had been in exile but now are back in Jerusalem. That, along with the wall being rebuilt, meant there was much to celebrate.

**Point 2: *Check for understanding using “Think-Pair-Share” technique.***

In this part, we are discussing the coming together of the people to revere God’s Word. Read aloud to the group the following article, “Five Benefits of Corporate Worship”: <http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/five-benefits-of-corporate-worship>

**Think–Pair–Share:** After reading the article aloud, ask your group to **think** for 30 seconds about what the article said were the benefits of corporate worship. Then say, “Now I want you to **pair up** to discuss this with the person on your left or right who is not your spouse.” Pause for 60 seconds. Call on 3-4 pairs to **share** one idea.

**Point 3: *Challenge your group with a time of confession.***

In Nehemiah 8:7-12, the people of God have heard the Word of God and are repenting and responding. When the Word challenges us, our next step should be to respond to it.

Ask your group to pair off again with someone of the same sex—men with men and women with women. Say something like the following: “As a next step to our lesson we are going to follow James 5:16, which says, ‘Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect.’ ”

Then say, “Confess to one another a sin issue that has been holding you back and is in need of accountability. After sharing with each other, pray for one another.”

When the pairs rejoin the larger group, stress the importance of confidentiality with what each has shared.

**Conclusion: *Encourage your group with prayer and follow-up.***

Read Hebrews 10:24-25: “And let us watch out for one another to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.”

In closing, exhort each pair who prayed together to exchange their contact information and make plans to check on one another during the week. Pray together as a group and then dismiss.