

Introduction: *Introduce a concept by connecting with their prior experiences.*

Ask your group members about their favorite Thanksgiving meal traditions. What makes them so special? Have a few members share their insights.

Point 1: *Use the “Think-Pair-Share” technique.*

Think-Pair-Share: Someone said, “If you want to know if you have a servant’s heart, watch how you react when people treat you like a servant.”

Then say something like the following: “**Think** for 30 seconds about this question: are there times you want to be served rather than to serve? Now I want you to discuss this in **pairs** with a person on your left or right who is not your spouse.” (Pause for 60 seconds.) Call on 3-4 pairs to **share** one idea.

[Source: Nancy Leigh DeMoss, quoted in “You Know You’re a Servant When...” by Sarah Bubar, Unlocking Femininity, October 14, 2010, <https://unlockingfemininity.wordpress.com/2010/10/14/you-know-youre-a-servant-when-2/>.]

Point 2: *Connect with the major theme.*

Turn to the Further Commentary on page 38 in the Leader’s Guide. In the excerpt, George Eldon Ladd states, “The word *covenant* means not an agreement between equals, but one between a benefactor and his inferior; God has graciously bestowed His gifts upon those who do not deserve them.” Divide into 3-4 groups. Ask your class to discuss the statement by Ladd and to talk about the difference between a *contract* and a *covenant*. Call on each group to share their answers.

Point 3: *Draw application from a relevant passage of Scripture.*

Ask your group members to read 1 John 3:1-3:

See what great love the Father has given us that we should be called God's children—and we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it didn't know him. Dear friends, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when he appears, we will be like him because we will see him as he is. And everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself just as he is pure.

In this passage, John states that we are sons of God now and that one day we will be with the Lord Jesus and see Him as He is. Verse 3 emphasizes the link between the hope of seeing the Lord someday and living a pure life today. Ask your class to discuss the link between these two important concepts. Ask, "What are some ways we can live in anticipation of the Lord's return?"

Conclusion: *Challenge for application.*

Read the following Adrian Rogers quote: "Jesus didn't practice what He preached, He preached what He practiced."

We need to model His life of selfless service, but we often forget what He did and how He lived. Give your class a few minutes of time to remember the Lord Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and reflect on His future coming. Ask them to specifically think of three things they can thank Him for and give them time to pray about it.

[Source: Adrian Rogers, *Adrianisms, Volume Two: The Wit and Wisdom of Adrian Rogers* (Memphis: Love Worth Finding Ministries, 2007), 24.]

Teaching Tip of the Week

The imagination is crucial when communicating with students. Too many times our lessons are packed with Bible facts that students can regurgitate but never seem to be able to apply in their lives. "While the responsibility for their disobedience is totally their own, the responsibility for making the proclamation of God's truth exciting and personal rests with those of us who preach. The 'hearers of the Word' can't easily become 'doers' if their 'hearing' doesn't become 'seeing.' "

Seek to engage your students' "seeing" through the use of stories and metaphors that stimulate their heads and hearts.

[Source: Warren W. Wiersbe, *Preaching and Teaching with Imagination: The Quest for Biblical Ministry* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1994), 61.]