

Bible passage:



Bible Passage:

EXPLANATION



Something that “shines” from the passage - whatever impacts most, or draws attention.



Anything that is difficult to understand in the text, or a question the reader would like to ask the writer of the passage or the Lord.



A personal application for your life.



The name of a friend or relative with whom you will share what you have learned from the study.

EXAMPLE



My God is a generous Father and the most wonderful gift he gives is the gift of the Holy Spirit.



Is Jesus promising every Christian that God will meet all their needs? If so, why are there so many Christians in this world who are poor and hungry?



My friend Fred is in great need at present. I will spend at least 10 minutes this evening praying for him, before I go to bed.



It would be great if Lilly joined our group. I will ring her this week, find out how she is going and share with her why I enjoy coming to this group and what I learnt tonight.

The Process

- Pray, asking God to speak through his word.
- Read the passage aloud. One option is for the group to read it in unison.
- Each person spends 10 minutes in silence writing down at least one thing next to each item (light bulb, question mark, arrow, bubble).
- Each member of the group shares one of their “light bulbs”. Discuss this.
- Each member shares one of their questions:
 - Ask the group member, as he/she shares this question, how he/she might answer this question; OR
 - Allow another group member to propose an answer.
- Each member of the group shares an application.
- Members are encouraged to share, if appropriate, with whom they are planning to share what they have learnt.
- Allow time for people to pray and appoint someone to close in prayer. Make it clear for the sake of newcomers that there is no compulsion to pray.

Reasons for Using the Swedish Method

- Treats the Bible as the ultimate authority, not the Bible study leader.
- Treats the Bible as comprehensible (its interpretation doesn't depend on experts).
- Doesn't require trained leaders.
- It is re-usable, repeatable and easily passed on to others.
- Each person given the opportunity to discover for himself/herself what the Bible says.
- It undermines anti-intellectualism, without being overly intellectual.
- Motivates people to read the Bible.
- Promotes good group participation.
- Requires a minimum of resources and preparation.