

7-Minute Bible Study

Want to learn how to develop and lead a 5 to 7-minute Bible study that can be used to begin committee meetings in your congregation? Use this simple way to get into the Bible and begin conversation about God's story—of which we are a part!

Elements of 7-Minute Bible Study

Leader: begin with prayer; introduce Bible study process; name scripture text; 30-second background

Leader or volunteer: read the scripture passage

Everyone: discuss using one or two questions brought by leader

Leader: closing prayer

Tips

- Remember this Bible study is not about the leader talking or lecturing but is an invitation for all present to engage the text.
- Give each participant a copy of “Four Approaches to Bible Study.”
- Leader preparation should include enough so that some type of background can be given (ie. historical time period; geographic setting; type of literature—poetry, story, law, prophecy, letter) but not so much as to be overwhelming. Give the background quickly so bulk of the study can be conversation.
- Leaders can find background information in a good study Bible, a good Bible commentary, or a good Bible website. Note some of those listed under Resources.
- Consider reading the text like a script—different readers for different characters in the story—if the text lends itself to that.
- Choose a short passage. One or two verses may be enough!
- Consider using a timer or appointing a time-keeper to keep your group on task.
- Don't expect a comprehensive Bible study. Remember this is a Bible conversation!

Resources

Lutheran Study Bible (Augsburg Fortress)
Interpreter's Bible Commentary (Abingdon)
www.EntertheBible.org
www.textweek.com

Possible Texts

Psalm 119:105
Jeremiah 29:13
Colossians 3:16
1 Corinthians 12:28
Ephesians 4:11

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Why does the synod's Book of Faith Task Group encourage every committee meeting to open with a 7-Minute Bible Study?**

Too many church meetings occur without calling on the power of God to be among those meeting to carry out God's purposes. Some meetings are strictly business without thought for how God's presence could be relevant. Some will say adding a Bible Study to a meeting will take too much time. Some will have a brief devotional or open with an inspirational thought. A Bible study will cause individuals to grasp a portion of Holy Scripture and actively ponder it. How will God's people be changed by opening scripture and joining the conversation? Give it a try!

- **How can a Bible Study happen in only 7 minutes?**

There is no one right way to do this. It can be done! You will not discuss everything about a passage in seven minutes; you will, however be engaged with the Word of God!