PREPARING A LIFE CHANGING BIBLE LESSON

(1) THE LEARNING PROCESS: HOW DO PEOPLE LEARN?

Did you know that we all learn differently? You will naturally teach according to the way that YOU learn…but not everyone learns like you do!

Key Principle: the more active the student in the learning process, the more they learn!

(2) PREPARING THE LESSON: AIMING FOR LIFE CHANGE

Every lesson should be summarised in two sentences:

- **Teaching sentence (What is it talking about?)**: summarises WHAT the central truth of the lesson is: *"sums up the big idea of the passage; it is what you must teach from this passage. If you have not got a clear theme sentence in your mind you will probably have several sermons shaken up together in a bag" (Philip);*
- **Application sentence (So what am I saying about what it's talking about?)**: summarises the SO WHAT application(s) that you want people today to discover: *"this is what you are praying the Holy Spirit will be pleased to do as a result of this sermon" (Philip).*

Every lesson also should be structured in such a way to encourage life-change:

(1) Hook → **(2) Book** → **(3) Look** → **(4) Took**

(1) HOOK (Why should someone listen and be interested in what this passage has to say?): Get attention and show need for the lesson's 'big teaching idea'

Develop an interesting/funny/engaging/provocative opening perhaps using an illustration/story/example/question/activity/survey which will introduce the Teaching Goal of the passage. This launching of the study will help gain peoples' interest and show them that this talk will be relevant to their lives, by raising a question, concern, need, issue that they need answered from the Bible passage.

(2) BOOK (What did the passage say and mean to them originally?): Help learner understand and engage with the Bible

For a Talk: Turn to the passage to read it/tell the story (if it is long set the picture, and read the few verses you want to focus on). You may want to give a few details here from the context of the history/geography/culture or the immediate biblical context (the bits before and after) that help bring the passage to life. Help them to enter into and live the passage: see, smell, hear, feel it.

For a Study: Write clear, simple sentence, open-questions getting people to study and discuss the passage for themselves. These questions can be: **observation** questions (i.e. comprehension), **meaning** questions (i.e. interpreting the significance and point of the passage), **correlation** questions (i.e. using other passages to bring clarity on this passage), **summary** questions (i.e. helping them sum up the central truth in their own words). **You want them to discover the thrust of your theme sentence!**

(3) LOOK (What does the passage mean for us generally today?): Guide learner towards principles and applications

For a Talk: Teach a couple of points which unpack or explore the implications of the passage.

For a Study: Write clear, simple sentence, open discussion questions getting people to consider the **general** implications and practical applications of the central truth for our lives in our world today. **You want them to discover the thrust of your aim sentence.**

(4) TOOK (What does the passage mean specifically for each individual today?): Help make specific applications and life changes

Doesn't introduce new information, rather it reinforces your Teaching Goal (theme/aim sentences) by challenging them to consider what they need to take away personally and do about the applications they have considered.