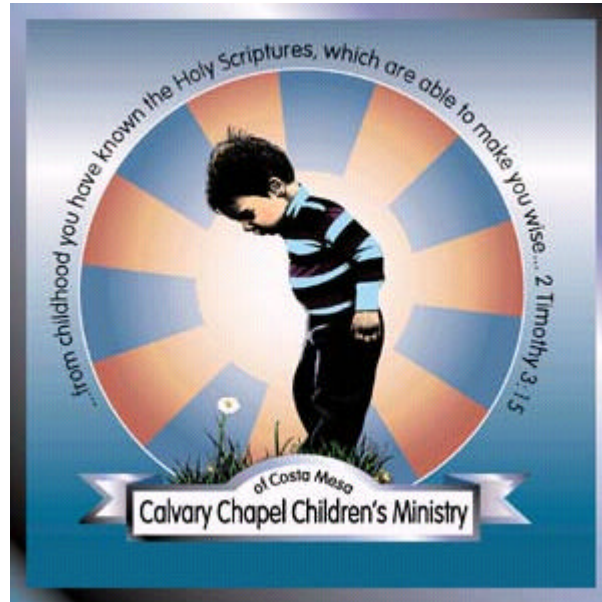

CALVARY CHAPEL CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TRAINING COURSE



WEEK 3 TRANSCRIPT

LEADING A CHILD TO CHRIST & INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY METHODS

PASTOR LARRY ENTERLINE

Opening Prayer

“Father, we thank You for what You have done through Your Son, how we have access to You. That we have forgiveness for our sins, we have fellowship with You. May we not take that for granted. We ask that You would come and be with us, work among us, speak to our hearts. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Leading A Child To Christ

This particular class is one of my favorites to watch, because I get to do a lot of watching once we get going with this. It’s fun to see the interaction that you will be having while we are doing this. After we get done with this portion of class, we are going to be breaking up into groups of two, for the purpose of practicing what we are going to be talking about, and that’s “How to Lead a Child to Christ”. So, I would recommend you take notes, you listen, and put yourself in the place of having to communicate what we are going to be talking about in the next few minutes.

The first page that you have with you, you will find in the last chapter of your Training Manual. That first page lists plans for presenting salvation. So, if you can turn to that, there are one, two, three, four, five different options on this page, which refers to the fact that you can share the Gospel using God’s Word in different ways. And what is really important, is that you become familiar and comfortable with presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the children, or to anyone. That’s going to be extremely important. So as we go over some of these points, you will want to be making some notes and putting yourself in the place of leading one to the Lord.

Now the first thing that I recommend people do, is to memorize the scriptures that they are going to use. The second thing is to take those scriptures, and to find the first, and to put on the front somewhere of your Bible, plan of salvation and then the scripture reference that you start with, so that you always have a key in your Bible to share. And go to that scripture and write the reference of the next scripture that you will want to share. And go all the way through your Bible that way so that when you move to the next scripture, you will have the next one that you need to talk about, once you have addressed the issue that you want to talk about at that point. And it’s easy just to keep moving along. Now why is that important? One of the reasons it’s important, especially with youth, with the kids, is that they need to know that it’s coming from the Word of God, and it’s not just someone saying “Now this is what it is.” So if you just memorize it and you start sharing it, they aren’t quite certain or sure where this may be coming from. But if you go to the Word itself, and you open the Bible up, and you have it right there, and you even say, “Hey, do you want to read it? Here, read this scripture. What does it say?”

And you talk about it. It's that simple. It's not difficult. Sometimes we make it much more difficult than it is. It's very exciting when it comes down to it. You will have people that will reject it. You will have people that will just fall, just hand and foot, going, "This is it? Why hasn't anybody told me this before? This is awesome. Yes, I want to follow Jesus." And you will find that in class, too. The enemy comes in with fear and says, "You don't have all the answers. Don't open your mouth then." And it's true, we don't. But we can find what God has to say about very specific aspects of the plan of salvation. So on that page, Plans for Presenting Salvation. It's just something you can look over.

The Roman Road

We will be going this evening basically off of the Roman road, dealing with scriptures from the book of Romans, with one variation of that. You have a page there. What does a child need to know, to appreciate Christ's death and receive him as Savior? These basic facts should be emphasized. We are going to go over that real quickly. Number one, God loves all kids, including me, including that student that you are talking to, and they don't have to earn his love. He loves them. The scripture reference for that would be John 3:16.

Number two, I've done wrong, and this wrong, called sin, must be punished. The reference for that would be Romans 3:23. Number three, Christ died to pay for my sins. These are some real basic concepts, and yet if you haven't been shared with, pertaining to these things, and you hear that for the first time, it's not so basic anymore. These are words of life that can lead to that. The scripture reference is Romans 5:8.

Number four, I must accept Jesus as my savior to receive God's forgiveness, Romans 6:23. And five, when I do this, I become God's child, Romans 10:9. When you are sharing the Word with the children, the plan of salvation, it's extremely important to be clear and not to confuse, to know what you are saying, to know the words that may be a little bit too big for the children to understand. As we've talked about in the other classes, if you are speaking and sharing with a four or a five-year-old, talking about being born again may not be the best term to use. Because again, as we've shared, they aren't quite sure about what being born means at this point in time, and they can deduct, "Well, if I have to be born again, I don't understand how I'm going to get back inside Mommy." And, "No, I don't want to do that. That just seems too difficult, and so, no, I don't want to ask Jesus into my heart." And that's how they will deduct some of our terminology. Accept Jesus into my heart, again, we talked about that, knowing that, "Well, Jesus must have been so tall, and my heart is so big, and there's going to be a problem there, too. No, I don't want to do that." And so, when we are presenting the plan of salvation, we need to think through the age that we are talking to.

What is age appropriate? Now those terms would be no problem with someone a little bit older than four, five, six years of age. And there are many ways of presenting the Gospel. But some of these that we just talked about, they need to understand. There is sin. They have sin. They can ask forgiveness. They can receive Jesus Christ. They need to understand these things, and it needs to be clear. There is not a more important understanding in the universe than how to be saved. And yet, how much time do we actually spend in preparing to be a vessel used by God? That's the other exciting thing about preparing yourself. God tells us that He desires that not one would perish, but that all would receive Him, receive that gift. Therefore, it tells us that He's looking for vessels to use to bring people to Himself, vessels that are prepared, vessels that know His Word, that know how to present in an adequate manner what He wants those to know that have never known Him before. So it's very important that we prepare. You may find yourself sometimes feeling like, "Well, my life is just not really clicking." Go share your faith sometime with someone. What that does, when you see new life come, it causes you to remember when you became new in Christ. It causes you to realize the work that's going on. So it's important that you are ready. And then, if you are ready, plan on being used. Plan on God bumping someone into you that needs to know about it. "Well, I don't really know why I'm talking to you, but, you know, I've been wondering about God these days." It's an appointment that God has made with you at that point in time, because He will use that opportunity, when He finds vessels not only prepared, but willing. Romans 3:23, and I guess we can look to the first page that we've got there, the first page of the last chapter.

The Bible says that "...all have sinned, and fallen short of the glory of God", Romans 3:23. Now, you can look that up in your Bible. We don't have it all written out there, but it says all have sinned on your handout. It's important for the children to know that that means everyone. The word "all" means everyone. They need to have it defined, what we are talking about here, having fallen short of the glory of God. Now that depends on the age range that the child may be that you are presenting. You don't have to get into, that they missed the mark, what to miss the mark means, and all those different things when they're very young. The fact is that God has a standard, and we've all sinned. We have all not met that standard. As they get older, you will have to become more knowledgeable in what you are going to be sharing, and how you would. Romans 5:8, "but God demonstrated His own love towards us in that while we were yet still sinners, Christ died for us". Christ's death counts for everyone. Again, that's important for them to understand. That there's not some that He died for, but He died for all, because the enemy will come in and say, "Well, yeah, He died for those kind of people or that kind of a person, but not me." It's important that they understand that "all", again. John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life". God loves us so much that He gave

His only begotten son. And you have to be careful, too, in starting to explain that to a child. Well, what do you mean, He gave His own son? And you start defining. And to a child it can scare them, because they can interpret that, as He killed His son. And that may be very difficult for them to totally comprehend. And again, as we talked before, the act of coming to know Jesus Christ, is the act of the will. Not as much the intellect as the will. Saying, “I am willing to follow Jesus.” Because the Holy Spirit is already talking to the young ones, directing them, saying, “Yes, this is right, this is what I should do.” And we don’t want to hinder the leading of that. So there are different things that you need to be aware of when you are sharing. I’m not saying candy coat or cover up, but be wise with how you do share it to the youth.

Why is it important that they understand this? Romans 6:23, because the wages of sin is death, and if they don’t do something about that, death is what they’re headed towards. But the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Sin equals death, and you can explain that in different ways. That’s eternal separation from God, otherwise known as hell, or, life in Christ, eternal life, that’s Christ equaling life, and that can be referred to as heaven. So it really depends on the age appropriateness, how you would communicate and what you would say.

How can I have eternal forgiveness and be saved? So important for that to be understood, eternal forgiveness and being saved. Romans 10:9, “that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved”. A confessing, an identifying with. These are all very basic elements, but are very, very important to be prepared to be ready. We talked about the percentage of those youth that give their lives to the Lord. Between the years four and fourteen, 85 percent of all commitments made will happen in that age range, or thereabouts. That means there is going to be a lot of opportunity to see the little ones come to know Jesus Christ, and we need to be prepared for that. So we have covered those things that are important for them to know in regards to the Word of God, and how that brings them to that place of making a decision.

One thing that is really important, is that you don’t get this idea that there is just one formula, there is just one way to do it, because there’s not. And you need to be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit, using his Word, yes, that is the one formula, if you would, that God’s Word is presented, and that the kids know, that that’s where it’s coming from. It’s not coming from me or you, as much as it’s coming from what God has established. And that’s important to understand. Always using those scriptures, always pointing to the scriptures. It’s also very important that the children understand, that this decision is between them and God. Because in the younger age, four, five, six, there is a tendency to want to please the teacher, and we don’t want them to make a false

proclaiming, because they just like you as the teacher, they just want to please you. So it's very, very important that they understand that this decision is not between you the student and me the teacher, but it's between you and God, and you need to understand that. And, "I'm just telling you what God says here in His Word, but you need to decide. I will pray with you if you want me to." But if you try to convince them, you are stepping out of bounds. You share the truth, and let the Holy Spirit do His work, in convicting and drawing and bringing to the truth. And that is very important to understand. It's based on God's Word, and it's not based on your words.

Once you've shared it in class, whether it's through Bible study, whether it's just going forth through the scriptures in a brief manner and sharing it, if children do then receive the Lord, it's very important to somehow go back over the information, so that they are in agreement with what they have just done, and they understand what they have just done. That might be through tracts that we have in the office, it might be through a sheet of paper that you have created and designed on your own computer. However it may be, that they understand, and you are sure that they understood what just took place, that's important. And then the process after that, is that of discipling, teaching them to grow, how to grow in the Word, to daily be in the Word, to daily spend time with the Lord, to daily be in prayer, to share their faith. And that's the progression of the class. Once the child has come to know Jesus Christ, then our place is the discipling, building them up in Jesus Christ. It is so fun; it is so exciting. Did I share with you in a previous class, about the first grade class, and how a lot of the kids came to know the Lord? It's something that many times we aren't prepared to receive. People will talk about, "Oh, yeah, on Monday night there must have been fifty people that went forward." They can't comprehend what's going on with the children, the hundreds, week after week. We need to be ready; we need to be prepared. And it's one of the most exciting parts of class, to watch those little ones raise their hands, and see tears come down off their cheeks, because they've just given their life to the Lord. They've met their Creator at such a young age, and they know it, and they receive it. And our obligation, our responsibility, is to know how to lead them, as God would lead them, to Him, to draw them unto Him, not to us as teachers, not to us as a church, but to Jesus Christ, their Savior, their Lord. And then disciple them. I just love it.

And so, what we are going to do is practice this. We are going to break up into twos, and one person will lead the other person to the Lord, and then, altogether at the same time, we will switch and do the reverse. Now, there's one thing that happens, that many times people are not prepared for. They have prepared how to lead, and they give the scriptures, and the student says, "Yes," and then it's almost like, "Okay, uh, what now?" And it's really simple, but if we aren't prepared for that, it can be kind of frustrating, kind of, "I don't know what to do. They said yes. Well, I guess we pray. Well, how do we pray?"

And that's what you do. You pray, but you go back through what you've established. You go back through the scripture, and you have them repeat after you. "Father, I understand that I have sinned." And they repeat that, "I have sinned." And go back to, "And I understand the wages of sin is separation from You, and I don't want to be separated." And you just lead them right back through in a real brief manner, what you spent maybe 10 or 15 minutes dealing with. And that's all it takes. So, I want you to experience that also. You are going to have about 10 or 12 minutes to share with a partner, and when you get done sharing and leading them to the Lord, I want you then to pray with them. Now, this is not an exercise of combative experience. This is an exercise as a child most likely would do, and they would sit there and they would listen, or if they had a real question. "God really loves me? I don't... why would God love me?". You can briefly share, but they are not going to be, "Yeah, well I can't see God, and how can you know?". And to come up with the evolutionary process really doesn't quite fit in with the model ... you aren't going to experience that for the most part when you are sharing with a youth. Again, because they aren't necessarily dealing in the realm of the intellect, even though it is intellectually being communicated, and it is important that the Word of God is established, but the issue always is our will. Are we willing? We don't understand the universe. It's not an issue of something that's blocking me from receiving the Lord, because it's so founded on fact. It's because I want to stay a sinner. I am not willing to change. Because the evidence is there, plenty of it. And the same goes with the children, but it's at a very early stage where they don't have that many walls up. So don't try to confuse your partner. Don't try to make it difficult. This is an exercise that you can just see what, if you haven't done this for a while, if you've never done this before, you can see what goes into it. It sounds simple, but it takes some real time and practice at being able to do it. And so we are going to do that. And what I want you to do now, is team up with one other person. You can turn your desk, just as long as you get them back to where they were, to meet up with them. And let's take about two minutes to get situated. I don't want you to start until I tell you to. So go ahead and do that for the next two minutes.

(Everyone talking)

Okay. What we want to do now is... I hope everybody had the opportunity to pray. If not, I don't know where your eternity will be, but... (Laughter) You'll have to take care of that after class. We are going to do the same thing. There have been a few good comments that are worth sharing briefly, and that is you need to get scriptures that you feel comfortable with sharing and explaining, very important. But if you don't go through this process that we are doing this evening, you may not ever get that feeling of comfort. God's Word has got it, I mean, it's there. It's for us to be able to communicate it effectively. You don't have to use these scriptures, these are just possible directions of

presenting the Gospel. You may have others that you feel much more comfortable with. The point is, be comfortable with presenting the Gospel. Alright? So what I want you to do now is reverse roles, and those who were receiving now can share their faith and lead the other person to the Lord.

(Everyone talking)

Alright. You've had the opportunity now, to see that even though it is fairly simple, it can be complex. To communicate the truth in a clear and simple manner takes some practice. If you were frustrated, just pray and ask God to continue to work, because this is so important. It's like anything else, when you do something for the first time, it will take some repetition, it will take some practice, it will take some analyzing, "Okay, well, I felt strong with communicating this aspect, but this one really needs some checking out, and figuring out what I can say." But if you don't attempt to do it, then what you will do, is you will be hesitant all of your life, not just in class. And what an opportunity, just to consider the missing of the opportunity. With just a little bit of effort, just a little bit of evaluating and examining.

Now, you have some questions in your own mind, you know. How will I, how can... and now is the time to pray and say, "Okay, Lord, lead me in those directions. Give me answers, so I can effectively communicate Your truth, Your Word." It is simple, but it's not so simple to do. To be prepared is what our heart's desire should be, to take every possible opportunity. As we should be desiring to do God's will, His will is, as we said, that not one would perish. So this has been a good time, a good exercise. It's always fun to watch you interchange with sharing this. And the real joy of remembering us doing that, of what that's all about. And so I want to encourage you, don't stop at this point, but continue to go in that direction. Find, I don't know, somebody at your home, or somebody that you feel comfortable with. You may have a dog or a cat that you can sit up on the couch and share with. (Laughter) But go over it; feel comfortable with it. You may have a trained parrot. Anyway, that is what it takes, just doing it. So this is ending at this point in time, the class on presenting the Gospel, the plan of salvation. Again, this was your first opportunity for many of you, and you need to continue to persevere and push through those areas that you may find yourself weak in. And the Lord will reveal that and show that to you. Okay, great.

Inductive Bible Study Methods

The chapter we are going to be taking a look at, is Study Methods. I believe it's the red tab in your notebook, I think. We are going to take a look at... now the first part of that is learning levels. That we've already covered, so it will be a few pages in. Okay. Let's stop just for a second. Alright, the very last page. Well, I'll have this on the overhead, and you can go off of this on the overhead at this point in time, if you find that it's not in your book. We are looking at Revelation 3:20 when we get to that place. So the three questions you can write on the back of a page that you have there, because you are going to be doing some writing anyway. I'm going to be putting some other overheads on that you will have to be copying. Okay? So, I just wanted to get that before we got this going. We are going to be looking at a very simplified way to study the Word, based on the inductive study, but it's very simplified. If you've gone through an inductive Bible study process, this is much simpler, because we are doing this with the students. We have this being done in third, fourth, fifth and sixth grade classes at this point in time, with teachers using this method to actually study, to even teach the younger ages. As they are communicating, it gives them some lesson plans, as far as dividing the Word of God.

Many times, people question whether this can actually take place in the children's ministry. Can the kids really get a hold of what are the facts, and what do those facts mean, and what do they mean to them? And the answer I find, time-in and time-out, is that it is possible. It does take some practice, it does take some time, but it's well worth the benefit. There was a time when, in my home, we on different occasions would go through, and do the Bible study in an inductive manner. And we were sitting at the table dealing with the scriptures in Matthew 24 that deal with the return of Jesus Christ. As we were studying, as we were looking at it, one of my sons asked if it was alright for him to share what he thought at that point in time, and we said, "Sure, you know, go ahead." And he said, "Well, you know," and again, I need to say at this time he was around 10 or 11 years old. He said, "I look at it this way. What we just read, how the sun and the moon and the stars all were darkened, the whole sky was pitch black, preparing for the return of the Lord, and I think God orchestrated all this, and I think He had it all planned. It was like a light switch. He turned it off, turned this off, turned this off, and it was absolutely dark. Because the scripture says, that Jesus is the light, and the scripture says that every eye is going to see Him return, so that's how it was kind of probably worked out. And when He approached the earth, He illuminated greatly, and everyone turned and every eye will see." And my wife and I were kind of going, looking at each other, saying, "What was that? That's really interesting." And we were pleased. And he saw that we were pleased. And something very important took place at that time. He experienced the reality that the Holy Spirit does not just speak to the parents, but that He desires to speak to anyone that has ears to hear and will receive what He is saying. And we saw that in our

son, as he realized that God had spoken to his heart, because we bore witness with that possibility. And it was a situation where we had looked at the scriptures to see what the facts were, then we talked about what those facts mean. And we went through that whole process. And maybe the first time it didn't work that readily. Maybe there were some hitches in it. But as time went on, it became easier and easier and easier to do. It's a method of study that we try to make as simple as possible, that the students would be able themselves to study. But another important thing took place at that time. The experience, what he heard the Lord say to him, thought the Lord said to him, took him from the intellectual aspect of the Gospel, the Word, to that of the heart. He sensed it in his heart. We so easily hide behind words. We'll memorize scripture, so that we don't even have to answer to what the scripture is actually saying.

And our goal of teaching always should be, as we talked about in the learning levels, is to bring them up that ladder of learning, to that place where they want to take it themselves, where they experience the love of God, where they experience his forgiveness, where they experience the joy of the Lord. Not just giving them information. We have to start with information, that's the starting place, but we want to bring it to the place where it's heartfelt and they act upon it. He realized, at that point in time, that he didn't have to wait to hear from God until he was 18 years old or 21, but that at that point in time, God wanted to speak to him. And it was an awesome time in his life. It was an awesome time in our life, seeing that take place. And we want to see that take place in the class. We want them to become a part of the whole process of studying, and learning and understanding what God would have them to do. So we are going to do that.

We are going to break up into groups of four approximately. If we can stay at four that would be very good to interact and help each other. I'm going to be sharing with you different principles and directions to be thinking on, as we cover each of the three questions, and I want you to interact and to talk to each other, and to help each other go through this. This may be the first time you've done anything like this, and you are just going to need to hang in there and work through it. You may have gone through a major inductive way of study, which could even be a hindrance to what we are doing, because this is so simplified. This is not going to be really time-consuming. So you need to take your time, and just work through all this. I will be putting the overhead up. We will get these pages to you, if you don't have them. We will be having these in the training manual for you to find, to be able to use. So at this point, what I want you to do, is take a couple minutes and break up into groups of four. You want to turn your desks towards each other so you can interact and talk. As much as possible, just four in a group.

(Everyone talking)

Okay. We are pretty well set. Step one. We are going to go through three steps. Each step we'll be covering, on your outline or if you've written that up there, I've taken it down at this point. Number one should be, what does the passage say? What does the passage say? And the scripture that we are going to be looking at is, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and dine with him, and he with Me." Revelation 3:20. That's what we are going to be looking at. And number one, what we will be wanting to establish is to list the facts. So when we look at number one, we are going to take a look at the scripture, Revelation 3:20, and we are going to set out the facts in an outline form. One, two, three, four, five.

Now, when I say the facts, basically what we are doing, is we are reorganizing what is said in the paragraph, the scripture, into an outline form. So if you are familiar with paragraph outline form, that should make it a little bit easier. What I'm saying here, is you are going to take the first line of the paragraph, and make that into one. Then you move to the next part of the sentence structure in the paragraph to two, to three, to four. However many it takes to layout what you are trying to say. So what you want to do is list the facts. You will try to make this hard. Trust me, that's the thing that you normally will try to do, is to make this very difficult. You are going to practically rewrite what that says, but in outline form. If you find that you've left something out, which will change the meaning, it's wrong. If you find that you've added something that is not in there, you will find that you are wrong. List the facts in one sentence. This is the literal aspect of this study. You want to be very literal. You do not want to change the meaning.

Now there may be something, such as we get into, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock," there may be something that's not in there that you can insert in there, but it doesn't change the meaning. What do I mean by that? "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." You normally will not just take one scripture and look at it, you will look at the scriptures before and the scriptures after to put it all together. And by doing that, you would come to the understanding that the person that is saying, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock," is Jesus. Now that will not change what the scripture says. It will help understand more fully what it says, but you will not add something. If you did not know who that was, you would not say, you know, "Matthew is standing at the door and knocking." That changes the meaning of what that scripture is. So do you understand that part? We don't want to change anything. You want to list the facts. You do not want to spiritualize anything here. You want to be very literal about this. Read through it and set out what you would have there in an outline form, basically just reorganizing that. As we get going, I will give you some examples so that it will help you understand what we are actually doing at this point.

So what I want you to do now, is go ahead and together, attempt to go through and do number one. Do not go to number two. We will do that together. There is a reason for that, and I will explain that in a minute. Only do number one, listing the facts. What does the passage say? Okay. So let's go ahead and do that. Help each other out. And I will be sharing a little bit more about this in a minute or two.

(Talking)

Now, what we are going to do is go to step two, what does the passage mean? The reason we are going in steps, is because it's really easy, I almost want to use the term "to cheat" even though it's not cheating, but it's real easy to jump to all three, and really not have to answer the question. You don't have to really touch your heart. If you can take the first and establish what the facts are, and then take a breather, maybe wait for the next day, and come back and do step two, what we are going to do, and that's to find out what those facts mean.

Now, on the first step, it was important for you to establish exactly what was said there, because we don't want to change anything. And if you have something different than the rest of the people that you are grouped with, then there is a problem. Step two, what does the passage mean, is the part where we do apply and look for the spiritual application. We want to find out why the Holy Spirit had what was written penned. What was the reason for that? So it would be the lesson part of that scripture. Why is it important for us to know this? And so, we want to look for those facts that would lead us to an understanding of what the meaning of it is.

Now in every exercise of Bible study, there is a key element. And that key element is, in the natural we are clueless. Therefore we need the Lord to lead us into the truth. Therefore we need to ask the Lord to lead us into that truth. And after I get done explaining step two, it would be good for you in your different groups to pray and ask the Lord to lead you to understand more fully what those facts are for. Do they apply to my life? Do they apply to a neighbor's life? Do they apply to a friend's life? What is so important about those facts that we just established in step one? Is there something that I should follow, or is there something that I should forsake? Or is there something that I should avoid, or maybe something that I should obey? We are looking for the lesson aspect of what those facts mean. And we do not, in this step, want to personalize it. It's like you want to read the facts, step one, step two, you want to say, "Okay, Lord, if I were to share these with my neighbor, what would I say to them? That's what we are looking for. In class, if I wanted to share that with a student, what would I share with them? Therefore, you have to ask the Lord to lead you to understand.

Now, you are going to have different things come to your mind, than maybe someone else in your group. It doesn't necessarily mean it's going to be the same. Now, something that we've been taught here and learned here: if it's wild and crazy, it's most likely wrong. If you've interpreted something that's just way out there, then most likely it's not what God was trying to intend. But, it's no different than when you go into the sanctuary with a hundred people, or a thousand people, and you leave the sanctuary and you were ministered to by the Holy Spirit, and you are talking to a friend, and you are saying, you know, "Oh, that scripture really meant this to me. God really spoke to my heart about it this way". And that friend says, "Oh, no, no. I got this from that." And you may hear that throughout the entire grounds as people have been ministered to specifically because the Holy Spirit, because God ministers to our needs specifically. Therefore, you want to encourage one another as you are doing this method right now, step two, and realize that God may even want to use somebody in the group to even speak to you tonight about something. It's hard to say. But He can speak many different applications about the truth. The truth has been established in step one. These are the facts. So what I want you to do now, is seek the Lord and find out now what do those facts mean. Ask God to give you the spiritual understanding of those facts. All right? Let's do that.

(Silence)

The next step, number three, what does the passage mean to me? Basically, all you are doing is going back to step two and putting it into a question form. You are going back to step two, and putting what you've got written down there, what does the passage mean, into a question form to yourself. So now you are applying it to your life. And it's at this point in time, often that we hear the voice of God, that He speaks. I have people come and say, "You talk about hearing God's voice. I don't understand that. I don't get that." And I usually will find my Bible on my desk and say, "Hey, He has spoken. Look at all these words. We just need to hear." And at this point in time, if we have done this in an honest manner, and we ask the question now to ourselves what that application was, many times that's when God touches our hearts. I mean, He can even do it right now as we are doing this exercise. It's important to understand that this time, step three, we are still before the Lord. This may be nothing that you want to share with the rest of the group. He may want to speak to you right now about just this scripture. So go ahead and do that. Take a few minutes. Put what you've got written down for number two, what does the passage mean, now in number three, what does the passage mean to me. Write it out in question form to yourself. Let's go ahead and do that and take just a few minutes to do that.

(Silence)

In step three, what does the passage mean to me, going back to what does it mean, those who respond to His voice will be able to fellowship with Him, and Jesus will fellowship with us. Putting it into a question to me, do I fellowship with Him? Not just having a bunch of facts, Jesus stands at the door knocking, and if you open the door and let Him come in, He will dine with you, and you with Him. And gee, that's great, I memorized it, now I can go to camp. But taking a look at what it says, and how it relates to our life is so important. We covered that last week when we looked at the learning levels. If you've taken the time to look at the scripture, and you are ready to go in the class, and you are walking into class, there is a difference between those who have studied and prepared, and those who haven't. Those who have, will have something to say. We have a choice. And they may go in there saying, "I have to say something," or "I have something to say." And many times we get caught in this aspect, "Well, I've got to figure out what to say," because we haven't taken the time to prepare. Because when we have, we will not be able to wait for that time to get into class to share what God has spoken to you about. It's exciting when the living God has spoken something that you are to deliver to someone else, and you find you just can't wait. "Oh, I wish it was today instead of tomorrow," or "I've got to wait three more days, well Lord, this is so awesome." Or you come into class, "Well, I've got to say something here." And that's the difference between studying God's word and being the person that is to deliver it to whoever it may be. We've had this up before, but I think it's definitely worthwhile to take a look again.

A sentence from the mouth of God will have more permanent power over a Christian man, than the best composed of human statements. God's Word is living and powerful, and has power to enter the heart beyond that of any other words. The words of the Bible strike and stick. How important for us to realize it's not what we have to say, it's what God has to say. It's what His Word has said already, that we take and look at what His Word has said. So many times we talk about different aspects of the Bible, and don't let the Word of God speak for itself. And this is one of the approaches that we have found, that enables God to speak clearly what he's trying to say.

When we are looking at the levels, going from the rote level and the recognition level and the restatement level and the relation level and the realization level, sometimes the questions were: how do I incorporate all that understanding into just reading the Bible and teaching the Bible, so that I can bring them from that rote level all the way through to the realization where they take it upon themselves? This is one of the approaches that will allow that to take place. As you see what's going on, if you want to, you can sit down and you can identify the different levels of learning that transpire from step one, step two, to step three. This is an option for you to be able to do, to teach God's word through all those levels, bringing the student to the place of realizing what the scripture says, what it means, and then what it means to them and that they have to respond to that. If you do

not have a consistent time with the Lord, I would challenge you to start doing this. Start doing this method of taking a scripture in the morning, and just looking at it, and let God speak to your heart. Or if you are having a consistent time with the Lord, but it's kind of stale or it's just not happening, try doing this for about a week. And by the end of the seventh day you are going to find some interesting things taking place. It's awesome when God speaks to us and we hear it. That's what we've been created for. We block it out so many times, but you've experienced this, or I pray that you have. When God has spoken to your heart, it's like, "That's enough. That's enough. That's it." And it may not even be addressing the issue that you were asking for. I've had that happen. Pacing around a park, spending time with the Lord, needing to have an answer. I must have this answer. There is a deadline. And I'd pace, and then I'd read the scripture. And before I even realized what I was doing, I was manipulating God. "Oh Lord, I'll read the Word. Oh Lord, I'll pray. Oh Lord, I'll walk. Just answer me." And He doesn't want that. And that particular morning I remember, a number of minutes, 45 minutes into this whole routine of mine, I heard, "I love you." Now I wasn't asking to hear that. I needed some direction. But after He said that, I couldn't care less about the direction. He touched my heart. And that's what the scripture is for.

The scripture is to lead us into fellowship with the Lord. It's not to cause us to feel like we know all this information, as much as it is we know Him. And we can fall into that pit fall, of teaching the kids information. And then Paul describes what happens, and that is they get puffed up, because that's all knowledge does is puff up. And then, as we talked about in the learning level section, they walk out of the class going, "Ha Na Neem Mun Sa Rang Eem Nee Da", and they don't even know what they're saying. This is a process. This is a method by which we can take the class, the students, through to cause them to hear God's voice. If they don't want to, you can't change that. But many of them do.

Now, when you are doing this method and you are studying, it's not going to be this complicated, because it's only going to be you and the Lord. There won't be distractions. So understand that. But I want to encourage you to practice this. Find it in a scripture, maybe even in this training session, and if you do it, turn it in. I'd like to see it. And just take a scripture and break it down, and then let God speak to your heart. But I want to encourage you to do that, because it will, for those entering in teaching the older age, it would be very important, but those who are teaching the younger age, you are going to have to share something. And are you going to walk into class going, "Well, I've got to share something," or are you going to walk in with something to share. It is simple. It is not that difficult, but you have to persevere and push through it, and go through that training process. Let's pray.

Closing Prayer

“Father, again, we thank You for Your Word, how it leads us and guides us and directs us. Speak to our hearts, Lord, continue to speak. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.”