

THE WORD – Training Overview

THE WORD training focuses on equipping individuals to enhance their knowledge and application of Scripture in order to lead others in their understanding of the Word. As opposed to lessons from a Bible teacher, The Word training assumes that God wants to talk directly to you through His Word. Accordingly, The Word training shows you how to read and study the Bible in a way that applies verses directly to your life, and then shows you how to help others do the same. Knowing and understanding the Word is not only valuable for GROWING, but also critical to SERVING, SHARING, and COACHING others. Without a deep understanding of the Word, you will be limited in your ability to assist others in their spiritual growth. Each week the trainer will teach the lesson and then practice integrating the concepts into a specific book and chapter of the Bible (e.g. Galatians – Chapter 1).

SESSION 1: INFORMATION

Session 1 provides the building blocks for studying the Word. When studying the Bible, it is common to hear that you need to make sure that Scripture are read within its “context.” Context means to read Scripture in light of the historical setting (author, date, audience etc.), literary function (genre, style, and structure), and theological concerns (main themes, perspectives, and emphases). This lesson will focus on quick and simple ways to establish the context of the Scripture you are studying. The purpose of this session is *not* to “feed” you information, but to train you to be able to “feed yourself” and then offer a way for you to teach others how to establish the context of Scripture.

SESSION 2: TRANSFORMATION

Session 2 moves to the integration of Scripture into your life. Unfortunately, the organized church has often stopped at the information stage of so-called Bible Studies. However, Jesus explains, “If you just use my words in Bible studies and don’t work them into your life, you are like a dumb carpenter who built a house but skipped the foundation. When the swollen river came crashing in, it collapsed like a house of cards. It was a total loss” (Luke 6:48-49, MSG). Session 2 focuses on integrating Scripture into your beliefs, thoughts, emotions, and actions. Finally, the training is organized to assist you in teaching others to apply Scripture to their lives.

SESSION 3: PERSONALIZATION

Session 3 takes Scripture to whole new level. Even when individuals learn the information of Scripture and apply its principles for life transformation, the most important ingredient may be missing – God! To understand what God wants you to know, we must be connected to the Source. The Bible explains this concept like this: “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may *know* the things freely given to us by God” (1 Corinthians 2:12). God’s Spirit within us reveals insight into God’s Truth. Accordingly, we must learn to listen to what God is saying. This training personalizes Scripture within a relationship with you and God and then teaches you how to show others to do the same.

SESSION 4: FACILITATION

Session 4 focuses solely on teaching others how to utilize Scripture for information, transformation, and personalization. The key to facilitating a study of God’s Word is *not* to be the teacher! If you are the teacher, then individuals start coming to you, instead of God, as the source. It creates an environment of consumerism that risks undermining the relationship between the individual studying the Word and God. Our goal is to help others connect to God through His Word by connecting them directly to the Source. God needs to be the teacher, not you. By giving some basic direction regarding methods of study and asking relevant questions, this session will teach you how to get out of God’s way and allow the people you are teaching to “feed themselves.”