

# Small Group Discussion

## Week 9



### Chapter 9 – Studying Logically

Remember, teach what you learn and share life, not just information.

#### Coaching Conversations:

As you reach the end of this phase of your study, plan to take some time, both personally and as a group, to look backwards and reflect on the whole study. What have you learned? Where have you been challenged? How have you grown? What passages of Scripture have had the most impact on you? Most importantly, what fruit have you evidenced from the work the Lord has done in your heart and life? As people share, look for ways to affirm and encourage your members based on your observations over the previous weeks. After you look backwards, take some time to discuss what your group's next steps look like. Will your group continue to meet? How will you hold each other accountable to making disciples? As the leader, come up with a recommendation before your group meets, but allow your members to speak into the decision. Feel free to contact our staff or your coach if you have questions or if you would like to process this beforehand.

#### Starting the Conversation:

Ask your group members how they approach studying the Bible. If they've answered this question in a previous week, ask them to describe how they discern the true meaning of a passage.

#### Life Group Questions

1. Think about the way you tend to study the Bible. Would you say that you make an effort to seek out what the Bible is actually saying? Do you pay attention to the context? If so, how has this helped you? If not, how do you think this might change the way you read the Bible?
2. What are the dangers of applying a verse taken out of context? How can you be sure to avoid this in your own life?
3. What is the difference between interpretation and application? How do you go about properly applying the Bible to your own life?
4. Why is it important to look for the plain meaning of each passage rather than seeking out a deeper meaning?
5. Do you have a tendency to interpret the Bible allegorically or figuratively? If so, why do you think you tend to do this?

6. Why is paying attention to the grammatical and historical context important? How should these concepts shape your study of the Bible?

7. What would it mean for you to read the Bible with an awareness of your own baggage and a willingness to get rid of those assumptions for the sake of understanding God's truth more clearly?

8. In light of what you have learned, how do you need to change your approach to reading and studying the Bible?

**Continuing the Conversation (optional):**

- **Bible Study Resources** – We've compiled a basic list of resources that you may find helpful in learning how to better understand what the Bible really says. Visit this week's additional resource page online for those recommendations.

- **"What it means to me..."** – This comment, while commonly used in many Bible studies, is very dangerous to make. Each passage of Scripture has many applications but only one interpretation; therefore, explaining what a passage means to us is simply irrelevant. Discuss why that statement can be a major problem when it comes to Bible interpretation. You can also check out an article online by Walt Russell entitled, "What it Means to Me..."

- **Additional Related Passages:** Joshua 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:14; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1Peter 1:10-12; 2 Peter 1:20-21

- **Memory Verse:** 2 Timothy 2:15

**Prayer Assignment:**

If you have not been consistent in studying your Bible as God to help you be more diligent and deliberate in the way you study. Ask God to reveal areas you have not been living in accordance to what the Bible says. In any areas that are revealed ask for forgiveness for neglecting His commands and pray for strength and courage to live them out.