



Preparing to Teach on the Fast Track

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It can happen to any teacher. It's Saturday night, and you're looking at Sunday's Bible study for the first time. The student and teacher's guides are a lot to read. Isn't there a quicker way to plan a lesson?

When you find yourself in this situation, put your preparation on this fast track. The key? The Scripture and the teacher's guide.

1. Pray that the Holy Spirit will help you focus the Bible study in ways that help your students grow in their faith.

2. Go directly to the teacher's guide. Read the Scripture text (second page of the session or from your Bible).

3. Read the **Faith Focus and Goals**. Check through the **Teacher Preparation** section for helpful background information.

4. Preview **Steps through the Session** in the order suggested below. As you read the session plan, take a pencil and mark the parts that you think would be most helpful and doable.

a. First, read step 4, **God's Story and Vision**, how to introduce the Scripture to the group.

b. Then read step 5, **Interacting with God's Story**

and **Vision** and step 6, **Living God's Vision**. This is the "meat" of the lesson. In #5 you are helping the class to dig deeper into the message of the Scripture. There should be some movement toward and discussion of "what does this mean for us? What difference should this make in our lives and in the life of our church?"

In #6, the question behind it is: "So what are we going to do?" You do want some closure at the end of the session, but it should be something that challenges the class to think and/or act in light of what you have studied together.

c. Now read steps 1–3: **Session focus, Sharing our stories and Reflecting on our stories**. These are designed to prepare the class to focus on life experiences that will connect with the Scripture to be studied. When teaching, these should be short warm-ups.

5. Review steps 1–6 in their usual flow. Edit as needed, with the ideas that come to you. Cross out the sections you will not use. You may need to refer to the student guide for some of the points

or questions you have chosen to use. If your group fervently reads the student guide, you'll want to read it too. But if you are short on preparation time, you can teach the Bible study without it.

Helping your group engage with the Scripture is the main thing.

6. If time allows, check the **ABSOnline** article that is posted for each session at www.MennoMedia.org/abs. It is a short "current events" application of the Scripture, written just a few weeks before the session date. Consider using it as an option to steps 1–3 or as an option in step 5. If an **ABSReproducible** handout is indicated for a session, it is also at this website.

Helping your group engage with the Scripture is the main thing. Think of the student guide as a supplement to that process. This fast-track preparation does not cover all the material provided (which by design gives more than can be covered so that teachers have options). But it will help you focus and organize your plan so you can lead the Bible study with confidence.