

WELCOME T
O

BSD

2013-2014



Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church

The Gift of Successful Small Groups





BSD MISSION STATEMENT

STUDY-- personal Bible study, group discussion of the lesson and weekly teaching lecture

NURTURE--prayer and weekly phone and email contacts

FELLOWSHIP--monthly group luncheons

A close-up of Morpheus from the movie The Matrix, wearing his iconic black sunglasses. The image is framed by a white border and set against a background of green foliage and a light tan wall.

WHAT IF I TOLD YOU

**THAT ACTUALLY READING AND STUDYING THE
BIBLE IS HOW YOU READ AND STUDY THE BIBLE.**

Successful Small Groups Depend On Lesson Preparation





Prayer

Observation

Interpretation

Application

Reflection

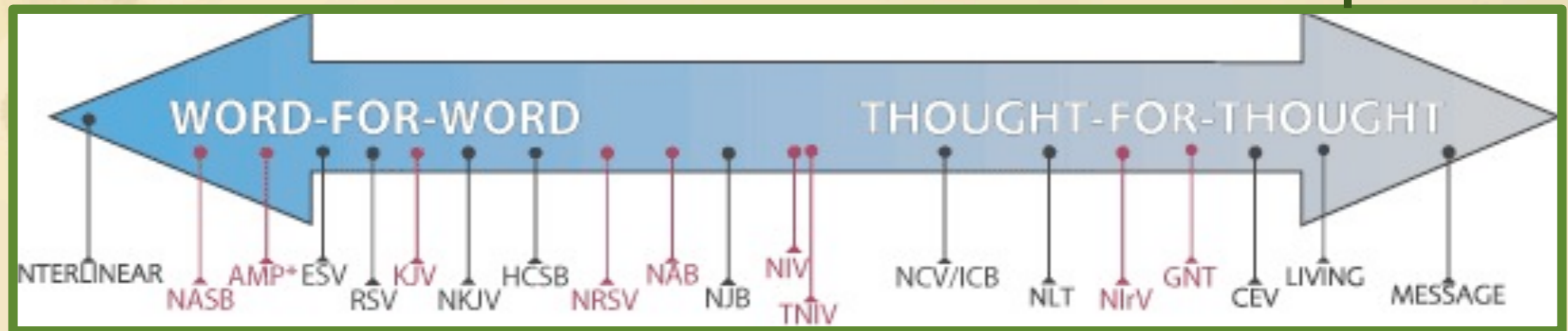
Steps to Successful Lesson Preparation

Lesson Preparation FAQ's

Which Bible Should I Use?

Literal

Paraphrase



We recommend:

**A literal version as your primary resource
(NASB, ESV, RSV, NKJV, NIV)**

**A paraphrase as a supplement
(The Message, Living Bible)**

Lesson Preparation FAQ's

What about commentaries?

How can I compare translations?

www.biblegateway.com
www.biblestudytools.com

The Gift of Successful Small Groups

Wear your name tag every week!



The Gift of Successful Small Groups



**Honor
the
Time!**

The Gift of Successful Small Groups

**Take Turns
Take a Turn !**



The Gift of Successful Small Groups



Silence is Golden!

The Gift of Successful Small Groups

Answer the questions you
have completed in writing.



The Gift of Successful Small Groups

Avoid Discussing:



- Denominations
- Books, magazines, TV, movies
- Politics
- Products

The Gift of Successful Small Groups

Prayer Requests

- Honor Confidentiality
- One sentence preferred
- Limit to immediate family
- Listen and pray: Don't try to “fix” it





Receiving
God's
Abundant
Gifts

**Introduction to Galatians, James and Ephesians
and The Abundant Gifts of God**

Three gifts

Ephesians

James

Galatians



Why were they written?

Ephesians – To strengthen and encourage believers and to show the nature of the church and the Christian life for both Gentile and Jewish believers



James – To give instruction and inspiration



Galatians – To refute incorrect beliefs about salvation and to call believers to faith and freedom in Jesus



Who were the recipients?

Ephesians – Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus and other churches in the area.



James – James did not write to a particular church but to 1st century Jewish Christians residing in Gentile communities outside of Palestine.



Galatians - Paul wrote to several churches in southern Galatia that he founded on his first missionary journey.

Dear Friends,

When were they written?

Ephesians – about A.D. 60-62 from Paul's prison cell in Rome

James – about A.D. 49

Galatians - about A.D. 49 or 50



What are the major themes?



Ephesians



- Jesus Christ is central.
- God's purpose is salvation.
- God's victory over powers is through Christ.
- Because the love of God is foundational, the church is urged to live a life of love.
- The reader's purpose is identity formation.
- Gifts: Being Chosen, Grace, Peace, Unity, Knowing God, New Self, Healthy Relationships, and Spiritual Power

James



- **Actions** are a response to the Word.
- **Christians must walk the walk and talk the talk.**
- **Themes** are patience, wisdom, the dangerous power of the human tongue, and faith.
- **Gifts:** Godly Character, Reflection, Faith, Humble Wisdom, Living in God's Will, and Patience and Prayer

Galatians



- **Grace – Faith - Love**
- **Salvation is by faith alone not works.**
- **Christians are free from the Law and from the power of sin and free to serve in love.**
- **Gifts: Gospel, Acceptance, Holy Spirit, Jesus, Being God's Child, Freedom, Changed Lives, and Goodness**

Applying the Lesson to Your Life:

This week look for a gift God has given you and thank God for this gift.



SOMETHING NEW!!

Bible Study Discussion Facebook Page

For:

Extras from the Teaching Leaders

Interaction with other BSD friends

Reminders and encouragement

