



# **Methods of Bible Sharing & Bible Study**

**Biblical Pastoral Ministry  
for Youth Today**



# Overview

- What is the Bible?
- Relationship between Bible Sharing and Bible Study?
- What is Prayer?
- Some Methods of Praying with the Bible
- Some Methods of Bible Study



# Creativity in Prayer!!

- Seven Step method
- Psalm meditation
- Scripture contemplation
- Identifying with biblical characters
- Discuss a current issue
- Film / song Analysis
- Preparing for the Lord's Day with Sunday readings
- Guided bible study
- Study a book of the Bible together

**Make it RELEVANT AND INTERESTING!!**



**Any Questions?**

**Thank you**

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## Biblical Pastoral Ministry for Youth

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5



# BIBLE

Bible = Word of God

True?

False?

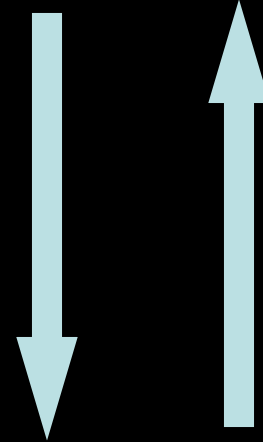


**GOD**



**HUMANS**

**GOD**



**HUMANS**



# BIBLE

Is the Word of God  
Experienced by Human Beings  
In a Human Situation  
& Expressed in a Human Language





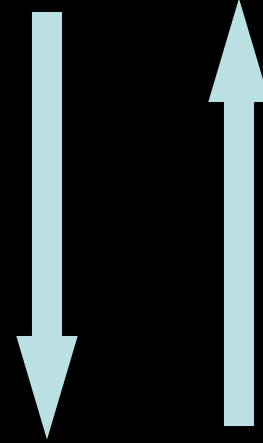


**GOD**



**HUMANS**

**GOD**



**HUMANS**



**Prayerful  
Reflection**

**GOD**

**Background  
Study**

**Message  
written  
under the  
inspiration  
of the Holy  
Spirit**

**HUMANS**

**Human  
Experience  
In a Human  
Situation  
& Expressed  
in a Human  
Language**



### Bible Sharing

- Done in a group; at least 2 persons
- Aim is to **Listen** to God speaking to me (Heart Level)
- Focus is on the meaning of the text **for me** in my present situation
- Needs a facilitator, but no need of an expert

### Bible Study

- Done individually or in a group
- Aim is to **Understand** the message in general (Head level)
- Focus is on the meaning intended **for the author's community** (study of that time and situation)
- Needs an expert or a handout prepared by expert



**Questions / Doubts**

**Prayerful Reflection**

**Background Study**



**Enriches / Purifies**





# Biblical Pastoral Ministry for Youth



# Difference between ...

## “Saying Prayers” and “Praying” ?





# Prayer is NOT...

- Reciting a set of words / following a pattern...
- A method to get things from God
- An escape from reality



# Prayer is...



- Loving Attention to God
- EXPERIENCEING God's presence
- LEARNING what God wants of us
- RESPONDING to the reality around us so as to bring about a transformation (building Kingdom of God on Earth)





# Test of Genuine Prayer

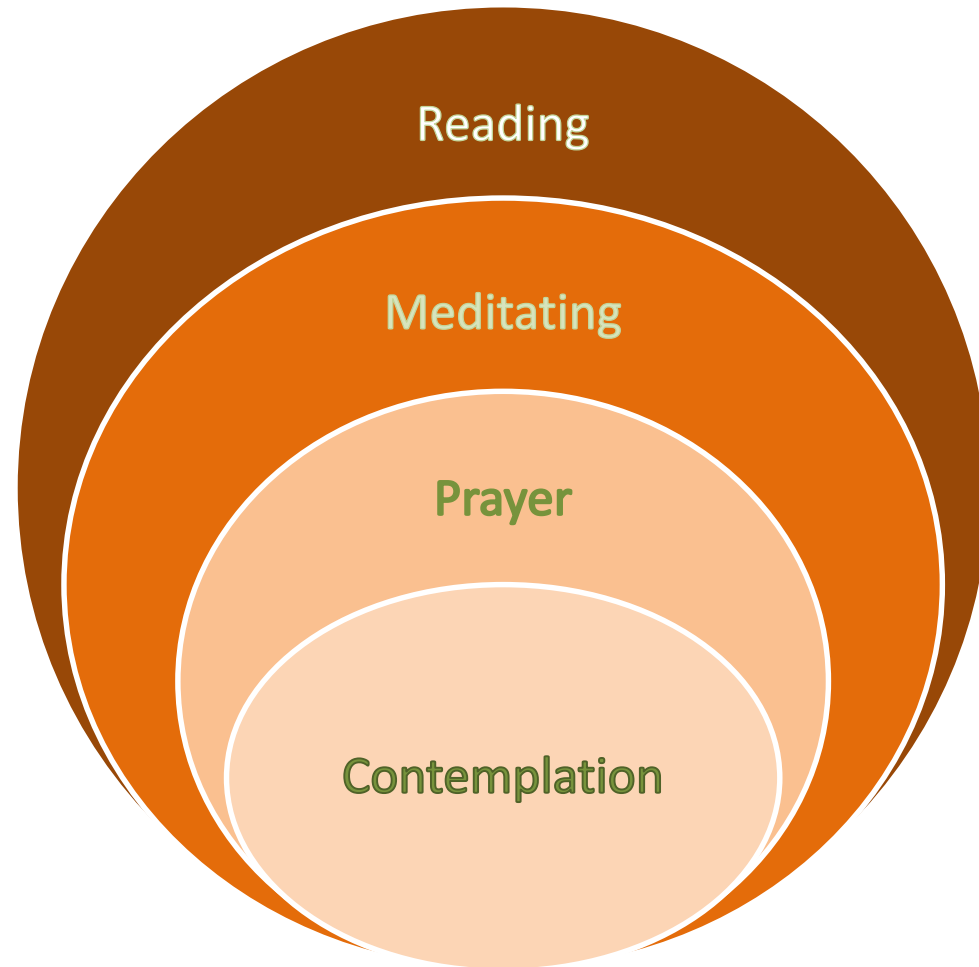
- Fruit of the Spirit
- Empowerment
  - No growth by “saying prayers” or “talking” to God... may become an escape from reality...
  - Key words for GENUINE prayer...  
**LISTENING**



## Lectio Divina

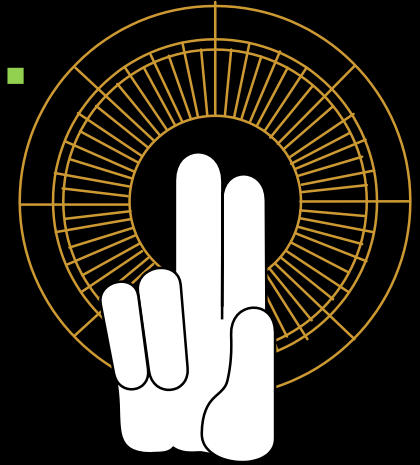
- **Reading** (Sensing)
  - look for what strikes you... a word or a phrase...
- **Meditation** (Thinking)
  - Stay with the word(s)... applying to your life
- **Prayer** (Intuiting)
  - Speak to the Lord... what you have discovered
- **Contemplation** (Feeling)
  - Let-go of words... just be present to the Eternal Word

# Lectio Divina





# Training to Listen...



- Four Steps:
  1. Retire
  2. Read
  3. Reflect
  4. Respond





# Praying the Psalms

- **RETIRE...** a hymn
- **READ...** a Psalm (2 times) e.g. Ps 63, 51...
  - Take turns individually (one stanza each) **OR**
  - Alternate as two groups (Ps 118)
- **REFLECT...** in silence
  - Make the feelings expressed by the psalmist your own for the ups and downs of life...
- **RESPOND...** with a spontaneous prayer



# Contemplative Bible Prayer

- RETIRE... a soft hymn or a breathing ex.
- READ... a passage (e.g. Jn 15:1-11)
- REFLECT
  - Take any phrase which touches you
  - Repeat it softly as you breathe in and out
  - Let it sink from your head to your heart = “interior savoring”
- RESPOND... with an expression of love



# Identifying with Bible Characters

- **RETIRE...** dim lights... breathing exercise
- **READ...** a passage slowly (e.g., Mk 2:1-12)
  - Imagine entire scene happening before you
- **REFLECT...** in silence
  - Identify yourself with one of the characters?
  - If you were in that situation what would you have felt? What would you have said / done?
- **RESPOND...** with a spontaneous prayer



# Discussing a Current Issue

- **RETIRE...** a hymn / prayer
- **READ**
  - A report about a current issue
  - Share your views / feelings
  - Read a relevant passage from the Bible
- **REFLECT**
  - Discuss the questions given
  - Share your insights
- **RESPOND...**
  - with a spontaneous prayer / action plan





# Film / Song Analysis

- RETIRE... a hymn / prayer
- 'READ'
  - [Watch a film](#) / [Listen to a song](#)
  - Share your views / feelings
  - Read a relevant passage ( e.g.Rom 8:38-39)
- REFLECT
  - Discuss the questions given
  - Share your insights
- RESPOND...
  - With prayer / action plan / [song](#)





## Biblical Pastoral Ministry for Youth



# Guided Bible Study

- RETIRE... start with a hymn / prayer
- READ... a passage slowly (e.g., 1 Kings 17)
  - Summarize the passage in a few words
- REFLECT... using the guided study
  - Read the background information
  - Analyze the passage as indicated
- RESPOND
  - Sharing and Discussion
  - End with prayer / hymn



# Prayerful Bible Study

- **RETIRE**

- Keep Everything Aside

This is Sacred Time

- Switch off the phone!!

- Become Aware of the Presence of God

- A Soft Hymn

- Breathing Exercise...



# Prayerful Bible Study

- **READ**
  - An Episode / Parable / Miracle...
    - a logically complete unit
  - Read 2 or 3 Times... slowly
  - Imagine the Entire Scene taking place before you...



# Prayerful Bible Study

- **READ**

- Observe the following:

- What is the Situation?
- Who all are involved?
- What are the feelings of those involved?
- Who does / says what... & to whom?
- How does this affect the situation?
- What is the final outcome?

Write a Brief Summary of the passage



# Prayerful Bible Study

## • REFLECT

– What is the Word of God Teaching Me?

Mark your insights using a color scheme:

- Red = a revealed Truth concerning God
- Light Blue = Prayers
- Dark blue = Hurts / Forgiveness
- Light Green = Coming of God's Kingdom
- Brown = Human Experience
- Yellow / Gold = A Golden Rule for Life

Develop your own color code



# Prayerful Bible Study

- REFLECT

*Ex 14:10-31*

- v10 As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD.





# Prayerful Bible Study

- REFLECT

- v13 But Moses said to the people,  
"Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see  
the deliverance that the LORD will  
accomplish for you today; for the  
Egyptians whom you see today you  
shall never see again.



# Prayerful Bible Study

- REFLECT

v15 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to **go forward**.

v16 But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground.



# Prayerful Bible Study

- REFLECT

**v29** But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

**v30** Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.



# Prayerful Bible Study

- REFLECT

v31 Israel **saw** the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and **believed** in the LORD and in his servant Moses.



# Prayerful Bible Study

- REFLECT
  - Doubts or Questions?
    - Note them down
    - Continue with your reflections
    - Clarify later
      - from Commentaries, books, etc.
      - with the Resource Person, Priest, etc.



# Prayerful Bible Study

- RESPOND
  - With Some Concrete Action
    - Specific
    - Measurable
    - Achievable
    - Realistic
    - Time Frame





## Biblical Pastoral Ministry for Youth



# Guided Bible Study – 1Kings 17

- **Background Information**

- The king and the people of Israel were expected to be faithful to the covenant, but they were unfaithful – they were drawn to Baal worship because they believed that Baal was the god of agriculture and rain. So they had a mixture of worship of Yahweh and Baal.





# Guided Bible Study – 1Kings 17

- Background Information

- Read 1 Kings 16:31-41

It tells us that king Ahab married Jezebel, the daughter of the king of Sidon. This is a 'marriage alliance' with the neighboring kingdom. He also indulged in Baal Worship and child sacrifice, which was forbidden by Yahweh.





# Guided Bible Study – 1Kings 17

- **Analysis**

a) “El” means god, and “J” is pronounced as “Y”, i.e., “Jah” is a short form for “Yah-weh”.

Thus the name of the prophet is very symbolic: “Elijah” = God is Yahweh

b) Read v1: Who is really in control of the rain?  
Who did the people think was in control of rain and agriculture?



# Guided Bible Study – 1Kings 17

- Analysis

c) Read v 2-6: Who directs and feeds Elijah?  
Through whom?

Do you remember any other incident in the OT where Yahweh was directing and feeding the people? Through whom?

(manna in desert, through Moses)



## Guided Bible Study – 1Kings 17

- **Analysis**

- d) Read v 7-9: Where is Elijah directed to go?  
Who else is from that place? (1 Kings 16:31)  
(Jezebel)  
Who is the “god of that place”?
- e) Read v 10-12 : What is the situation there?
- f) Read v 13-16 : Who feeds the widow in Sidon?  
Any similarity with Num 11:7-8?  
So, who is the real God even in Sidon?



## Guided Bible Study – 1Kings 17

- Analysis

g) Read v17-18 : What is the reaction of the widow when her son is ill?

Do you remember any other instance when the people grumbled immediately after being fed by God?

h) Read v 19-20 : What role does Elijah play?  
(intercessor)

To whom can he be compared? (Moses)



# Guided Bible Study – 1Kings 17

- Analysis

- i) Read v21 : The word “stretched”, what does it remind us of? (the Exodus)
- j) Read v22-24 : What is the end result? (faith in Yahweh as the Lord of Life)

- Silent Reflection:

underline what struck you in this passage

what is God telling you through this passage?





## Guided Bible Study – 1Kings 17

- Share your insights ...
- Discuss the following:
  - Why do we so easily forget the works the Lord has done for us?
  - Can we share with others when we ourselves do not have enough?
  - Does God punish?





## Biblical Pastoral Ministry for Youth





# Film / Song Analysis

## FROM A DISTANCE - Bette Midler

From a Distance the world looks blue and green  
And the snow capped mountains white  
From a distance the ocean meets the stream  
And the eagle waits to fly  
From a distance there is harmony  
And it echoes through the land  
It's the voice of hope  
It's the voice of peace  
It's the voice of every man



# Film / Song Analysis

From a distance we all have enough  
And no one is in need  
And there are no guns, no bombs and no disease  
No hungry mouths to feed  
From a distance we are instruments  
Marching in a Promised Land  
Playing songs of Hope  
Playing songs of Peace  
They're the songs of every man

God is watching us (3)

From a distance



# Film / Song Analysis

From a distance, you look like my friend  
Even though we are at war  
From a distance I just cannot comprehend  
What all this fighting is for  
From a distance there is harmony  
And it echoes through the land  
It's the hope of good  
It's love of all  
It's (This is) the heart (song) of every man

God is watching us (3)

From a distance





## Biblical Pastoral Ministry for Youth