

**Workshop Guide**  
**Focus on God's Word**  
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We are invited to follow Jesus. To follow Him, we must get to know Him, God's Word, His purpose for us, and ways He seeks to disciple us and others through us. As we teach God's Word, we join Him at work. Let's pursue identifying ways to teach God's Word by investigating steps to prepare, teach, and help people apply God's Word.

God speaks through all of His Word. The Old Testament lets us identify how much we need a Savior, Guide, and Master. The New Testament lets us celebrate that God fulfilled His promises for a Savior, Guide, and Master by sending His only begotten Son, Jesus. Let's celebrate a specific Scripture that can help model for us ways to investigate, honor, and teach God's Word.

Read Luke 4:16-21. Imagine being in the room when Jesus read Isaiah 61:1-3 and declared that this remarkable Word was being fulfilled in Him. Imagine hearing Jesus identify who you are, who you and I are to minister to and teach, and strategies we are to follow which He modeled.

Investigate the context and content of the passage.

- Review Isaiah 61:1-3. This is the Scripture Jesus read and used to declare His – and our assignment. Review major words and phrases in the passage that help us investigate the context and the content of the passage.
1. Call attention to the fact that this passage is about Jesus. Then state, this passage has your name on it: “The Spirit of the LORD God is on me.” Ask, “what implications does this have for you that God's Spirit is on you?”
  2. Say, “The groups Jesus identified in this passage are among the ones He reached out to, ministered to, and taught. These are the same ones we are to reach out to and teach.” Lead participants to identify the following individuals and groups that Jesus listed. Record these groups on a markerboard or large sheet of paper.
    - The poor
    - The brokenhearted
    - The captive/prisoners (those who are oppressed)
    - Those who mourn.

Select one or two of these categories and start a list of ways people now fit in that category. For example, what are ways people who live around here are poor, or brokenhearted, etc.?

3. Lead participants to list the actions Jesus said He would do and that we are to do based on this short passage. Record these responses on a marker board or large sheet of paper:

- Preach the gospel (good news)
- Heal (bind up)
- Proclaim liberty; Set at liberty
- Proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD
- Comfort

Ask the following questions, and lead participants to discuss responses: “Based on this short list, what are some of the things the Spirit of God has commissioned us to do as we are disciplined by Him? What are some of the challenges and obstacles you face that you feel limit what God chooses to do with and through you?”

4. This passage represents what we get to do in teaching and in modeling discipleship in the groups we lead when we focus on God’s Word.

Distribute a notetaking sheet, and lead participants to list actions to take to prepare, teach, and follow up using any given passage of Scripture.

A. What could you and I do to prepare to engage others in this intriguing portion of Scripture?

1. Prepare as though **God** has an appointment with you.
  - Read the selected Scripture.
  - Investigate and overview the background (context) of the specific passage.
  - Investigate the meaning and message (content) of the passage.
  - Prayerfully ask God what He wants to say to and through you, as well as to and through persons who could be in the group you will lead.
2. Prepare as though God will put at least one person in the group experience who is a **divine appointment**. Be prepared to share the following concepts to keep in mind:
  - That “divine appointment” could be someone who has seldom or never participated in a Bible study group, someone who attends routinely but is influenced by the LORD to encounter Him during this season of his or her life.
  - Anticipate that God is at work to connect you with one or more persons who need the message from God. That person could be you!
  - No matter how small or large the attendance might be, prepare to know that God is the One who knows the needs and heart of each person, and He wants you to celebrate how He is working.
3. Prepare and be flexible. Lead participants to list the following actions we can take to prepare and be flexible:
  - Be confident that the Holy Spirit is the **only real teacher** of His Word, and He invites you to be dependent on His direction as you prepare and lead the group.
  - We will best prepare as we investigate the Scripture, explore commentary designed to explain the passage and consider ways the message **relates to persons** in your group.

- Consider **asking and answering questions** about keywords, phrases, and concepts that are found in the passage.
- Spend time during the days prior to meeting with the group **praying** about what God wants to share through you and through the group experience.
- Examine the following statement: “As a teacher, we certainly need to prepare, but we also want to be flexible in following the ways the LORD will prompt and lead us and the group. The more you are prepared the more **flexible** you can be.”

B. What could you and I do to **engage others** in discovering and applying the profound message of God’s Word?

1. Remember that people learn best by personally participating in the experiences rather than by merely listening or talking. Share the following important actions for a teacher:
  - People will learn and apply best when you plan experiences that help them **remember** what is being taught.
  - For example, look for opportunities to use **object lessons** like what Jesus may have employed, and lead them to investigate and practice what is being taught.
2. Provide **resources and learning aids** for participants.
  - Make sure persons have a copy of God’s Word
  - Provide explanations (commentary) of the passage, and examples of questions they can consider.
  - Provide notetaking sheets as appropriate.
3. Use a **variety** of Bible study experiences as you plan and lead the group.
  - Call attention to the basic teaching approaches such as illustrated lectures, question and answer, and discussion.
  - Explain that there are also additional teaching approaches that lead participants to use their senses as they explore and consider the truth of Scripture. Be prepared to share one or more examples when Jesus led persons to use their senses in order to learn truth about God’s Kingdom.
  - Remember this important statement: “The worst way you can teach is the way you teach all the time.”

C. What could you and I do to **follow up with others** as a result of this or any other treasures of God’s Holy Word?

1. Lead others and yourself to put into practice what relates to life by investigating the passage. A key concept to embrace is: “What must I do to **obey** what God has said through His Word?”
2. Intentionally pursue ways to answer this question: “**Who else** needs what we experienced by engaging in this Scripture?” There are people who intersect with the group who could

not attend; what are ways individuals in the group could share facts and feelings that surfaced as you all encountered that passage? Also, there are persons who have no connection with the group but who also need to experience the impact of what God was doing through His Word.

3. **Expect God to work** in your life and in the lives of people who were intersected with the Body of faith. This will not merely be a “lesson” that was taught. This is part of a movement of God in and through the lives of persons who intersect with Him, His Word, and people who seek Him.

Lead in prayer to celebrate the privilege of encountering God through His word and teaching others.