**Personal Evangelism Workshop  
Breakout Session: Teaching Friends/Acquaintances/Strangers**

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Understand the difference between **deductive** and **inductive** bible study.

**Deductive Bible Study** - from the general to the specific. Starts with a theory, topic, or question and then searches the bible to prove or disprove.

Deductive bible study isn’t wrong, but if we start with a false premise, it can lead to error.

**Inductive Bible Study** - from the specific to the general. Starts with no premise, then, as objectively as possible, and works to determine the original meaning of the text.

Ten Tips for Effective Bible Study Sessions

1. **Study early and often**. Allow yourself to look over the material ahead of time, and in more than one session. Returning to the text often allows us to develop a fuller understanding of it.
2. **Prepare good questions**. Prepare open questions that lead to a deeper probing of God’s word. Avoid asking too many “yes/no” or fill-in-the-blank questions. Don’t preach, don’t talk down, don’t lecture. Keep sessions interactive.
3. **Know the most crucial points**. Come in with a clear understanding of the crucial points you want to cover. Not the most intriguing trivia, but what is most foundational, what leads to Jesus, etc.
4. **Prepare the setting**. Arrive early and make sure you have everything you need. Have extra pens and paper, be sure there are enough tables and chairs.
5. **Greet with warmth**. Greet people warmly and kindly. If there are new people, ask their name and LISTEN TO THEM. If you need to, jot their name down on your paper.
6. **Respect everyone’s time**. Start on time. Keep an eye on your clock/watch to keep a good pace. Then end on time. “Stop talking before people stop listening.”
7. **Display your passion and compassion**. Your love for God’s word should be evident. Consider a firm opening like, “This lesson was great! Let’s get started!” Show your compassion for study group members by actively listening to their comments.
8. **Affirm each contribution**. Every comment or question should be met with affirmation. Avoid using the same phrase each time, e.g. “Yeah, that’s a great point…” Be sincere.
9. **Keep the focus on God’s word**. As a study leader you are not just a teacher and guide, but the captain of the ship. When it veers off course, quickly and gently steer back to the bible. That is why you’re there after all.
10. **Keep moving**. You know the text, you know what is most important in it, so be sure you get there. Avoid irrelevant discussions and “rabbit-chasing.”

