



*Some  
Suggestions for  
Leaders*

**Discussion:**

As with all Bible studies, I am a firm believer that discussion is the key to a deep, dynamic, rewarding, and even intimate time. When I first taught this Bible study at my local church, I only gave the students the questions - the paragraphs of comments beneath each question were only visible to me. In this way, I was able to truly bring about some incredible discussion from the group. By having open ended questions (instead of simply regurgitating facts), the group actually became more interested in conversing as the study progressed instead of getting worn out over time.

One thing that may frustrate you, as a teacher, and your students is that many of the questions posed in this guide do not have a definite answer. After teaching this study in three times, I have routinely found that most Christians are conditioned to think that everything in scripture is cut and dry or black and white. In many cases, and with the OT narratives especially, this is not the norm. On the contrary, the narratives are often more ambiguous in the original language, as if the authors intent was to spark dynamic discussion. The “Big Ideas” are black and white, but many of the nuances of the stories are not.

Don't shy away from discussion, but also don't let it run wild. Keep the course on track, always bring the conversation back to the “goal” of Kings. In this way, the class will fully grasp the common thread that the authors so painstakingly try to get across.

**Homework:**

For a study of this intensity, as I hope I have designed it to be, it is absolutely imperative that members of the class or small group read the scriptures and try to answer the questions before they come to discuss it. With all of the names and stories found within the book of Kings, a person will be absolutely lost if they do not prepare. Most of the 40 people who attended my class on Kings completed the course, but of those who did not, it was almost entirely due to missing a week or two and then becoming lost and/or confused in the narrative. Weekly reading and homework is essential to a successful completion of this study!

**Dynamic Storytelling:**

Rather than reading the scriptures each week as we discussed the questions, I often “told the story.” By doing this, I was able to speed up or slow down as much as I wanted to and try to bring the emotions within the text to life (This will require preparation for you as the leader). I was in the habit of reading the assigned passages four times versus the student's one time. By the night of our class, I knew the stories backwards and forwards. Don't skimp out on your own preparation due to procrastination or laziness! You can only bring your class as far into the scriptures as you are yourself.

**Repetition:**

Guess what? Hebrew thought is repetitive. It is not as linear as western thought, but instead often presents itself in circles. Don't allow the repetition of the “moral of the story” to manifest into apathy. If the Hebrew people needed to be reminded of the cause of their exile in 100 different ways then we, as likewise fallen people, need to be reminded just as much.

**Be yourself, have fun, and love God's Word:**

If you aren't Charles Stanley, don't try to teach this study like Charles Stanley. If you are Charles Stanley, then I hope you enjoy my study guide. Seriously though, one of the greatest mistakes teachers and preachers make is that they try to emulate someone who they like instead of teaching/preaching in accordance with their personality. You

may notice that my style of writing is casual and approachable. I did not sit down and say to myself, “I want to write this study in a casual and approachable way.” I simply wrote it in accordance with my personality. If it were written by a philosophical thinker, I am sure it would have a different tone. Teach according to your personality, and don’t try to be someone you aren’t.

A lot of people don’t read Kings because they think it is boring. This is one of the main reasons why I wanted to write this study. I was convinced that people could have fun and learn a ton about the book of Kings at the same time. Use props (but don’t rely on them), use videos (if necessary), and use visuals. I always kept a whiteboard with me in the room so I could draw pictures, answer questions, write things down, etc.

Friends, fall in love with God’s Word. As you dig deeper into the scriptures, it is a natural outcome that you have a greater appreciation for God and His Revelation. Let that appreciation shine. People know when you are excited and when you are bored. Be excited! This is God’s Word we have the privilege of teaching!

**Prayer:**

Prayer is not ministry item #87. It is not something that we tack onto the beginning and end of a meeting. Prayer is the work of the ministry. Find a way to incorporate prayer into your study time. I tried to give you a jump-start on this idea with my “Glory of God” block at the end of each study, but in the end it will depend upon your leading and the Holy Spirit. When I first taught the study, we would finish by discussing the characteristics of God revealed in the week’s lesson. We would then spend a half of an hour worshipping God for those characteristics and submitting our lives in light of them. It was a powerful time and it helped make the lesson real to our hearts. You don’t have to do the same thing, but please do something!

I hope that this brief teacher’s guide offers you some suggestions. In the end, however, teach the study how you see fit. After all, I want you to teach it like you would teach it - not how I would teach it!