

4. Practical Applications for Improving Spiritual Health

Part 4 and Chapter 13

Read pages 225-246 (Part 4 and Chapter 13). Discuss the following with other church leaders:

1. What are the major competing factors to Bible study among your members? In what ways can you overcome them?
 - a. If you don't know what they are, how can you learn what is competing for your members' time and commitment to Bible study (e.g., incorporating member visits or surveys)?
 - b. How can you intentionally overcome people's obstacles to spending time in the Word?
 - c. What opportunities can you provide to address scheduling conflicts of congregants?
 - d. How are people currently invited to attend Bible studies in your church? How could you improve the ways you personally invite people to participate?
2. How can you strengthen the teaching methodology utilized for Bible studies in your congregation? List the current Bible studies in your church and describe the methods currently applied in each study (e.g., lecture, discussion, handouts, video or projected pictures, homework, etc.).
 - a. How well do the participants understand how the learning will benefit them? How could you improve communicating about the benefits of each class?
 - b. What methods are intentionally utilized to engage people? How could you improve participation verbally and physically?

- c. How often do people actually use their Bibles in the different studies in your church? How can you incorporate more Bible time in studies that are weak in this area?
 - d. What are you doing to relate new learning to past experiences? Determine a specific way you can do this in your next class.
 - e. How do Bible study leaders help people apply the learning to daily life? What can be done to improve application of the Word in their lives?
 - f. How well do you use homework? Discuss among your Bible study leaders how you can incorporate effective homework assignments applicable to each Bible study in your church.
3. What percentage of your church's staff and lay leaders attend Bible study? What can you do to persuade all your leaders to participate in Bible study and lead by example?
 4. How are the Scriptures used during your worship services? How might you encourage people to use their Bibles during worship?
 5. How can you teach and encourage family devotions? Consider Bible studies, worship, and member visits.
 6. What ideas can you implement for a year committed to increasing Bible study reading and study? Develop a plan together with the other leaders of your church.
 7. In what areas are you most discouraged about increasing Bible study participation? How can you guard yourself and other leaders against discouragement?