

## Thematic Studies

This provides very focused studies on a specific theme in the Bible. The purpose of this method is to discover what you can about a chosen theme with specific, prepared questions that you will ask of each verse chosen for study.

### Preparation:

- **Theme:** Decide what you will study.
  - Make it relevant to your group (you can ask them ahead of time what they want to know about the theme).
  - Make it specific: instead of “prayer,” you could study the more specific themes of “the prayers of Jesus,” “the prayers of New Testament writers,” “conditions for answered prayer,” or “intercession for others.”
- **Question:** Write down what you want to know about your theme?
  - Narrow your search to no more than three questions if you plan to include them all in one lesson.  
(Each question can be used for a single lesson if you want to make this study into a series.)
  - What? Why? When? How? Where? Who? Make them open-ended, not yes/no.
- **Verses:** List all the verses related to the theme.
  - Use your study Bible, exhaustive concordances, topical Bibles (all available in the library in the ministry office), or [bluletterbible.org](http://bluletterbible.org).
  - If there are too many, you can limit it by making your theme more specific or looking at related verses only in one book of the Bible.
- **Answers:** Ask your questions of each of the verses you found.
  - Write down the answers you find for each question of each verse.
  - If you are not finding any answers to your questions, start over and write a new set of questions.
- **Conclusions:** Summarize the answers from each of the questions after you have looked at each verse.
- **Application**
  - How do these truths apply to me personally?
  - What specifically am I going to do about them?

## Lesson Format:

Title: The **Theme**

Introduction: Provide a short activity, ice breaker, or thought provoking question to focus the group's thoughts on the topic for the day.

Lesson Body:

- Present the **theme** to the group and discuss how it might be relevant to us.
- Present your **questions** to the group through guided discussion that leads them to ask the same thing or through a direct ask.
  - Have them hypothesize their answers.
- Read through the **verses** that apply to this study—the ones you thought were the most helpful in your study.
  - You can read through them all at once to summarize the ideas.
  - You can read through them one at the time to help them formulate the answers on their own.
- Present the **answers** that you found in your studies. Try to do this by asking questions to your small groups so that they can arrive at the **answers** themselves.

Conclusion: Allow the **conclusions** to lead to **application**.

Discuss how this chapter can apply to our lives. As much as you can, make the application personal, practical, possible, and provable.

- Make sure you can give examples of how this passage applies to your life before you ask others.
- How will they remember this throughout the week?
- How will they understand the importance of this?