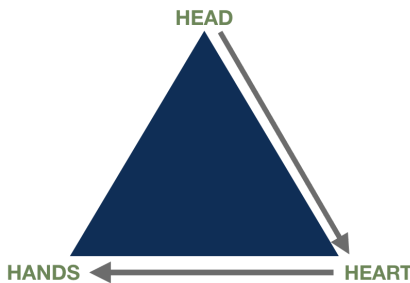


## How to Lead A Gospel-centered Bible Study/ Discussion.



**1. Head** (Information): Focus on brief historical background. Original intent of the writer. The immediate context of the passage, and how it connects to the broader context etc.

**2. Heart** (Transformation): Focus on what the text says about the fallen condition of the heart. What the text says we must do, or can't do, or don't live up to. This includes how our heart idols fail us. More importantly, discern how the text shows Christ as the solution to heart idols.

**3. Hands.** (Application): What the text says we must do but couldn't do; but how as a result of Christ's work on the cross we can do it too imperfectly (by the Spirit's help and power). **Note** that in the triangle, the arrow direction from *Head to Heart to Hands* **avoids** *Head to Hands* (a **moralistic application** of a Bible passage without the Gospel). It also **avoids** the *Head to Heart* (a **licentious application** of the Bible passage without Gospel-motivated obedience). The Gospel motivates us to serve with our hands.

### Basic Interpretation:

**A) Biblical Exegesis Versus Eisegesis:** An *exegesis* is explaining what the text actually says. When *leading or facilitating* a Bible study discussion, it is important *to stick close to the text* without importing outside thoughts or speculations. *Eisegesis*, on the other hand, is reading into the text what the text is not really saying. While acknowledging that we all come to the Bible with our cultural lenses, modern values and experiences, avoid *eisegesis* as much as possible.

**B) The Gospel (versus legalism or license):** The goal of a Bible study is to know God. The goal is transformation and not mere information. In this approach, God becomes the glorious subject of worship and not the mere object of study. It is crucial to see how the biblical text points to the Gospel of grace (which is central to the Bible). The gospel is *neither legalism nor license*. In a Bible study it is important to see how a certain text in the passage may lead to legalism, and how it may also lead to licentiousness. **More importantly**, we must see how the immediate and broader context (explicitly or implicitly) points to the Gospel. See questions below.



## | LEADER'S GUIDE |

*A simple tool to lead a gospel-centered Bible study.*

**C) Questions To Ask Through Gospel Lens:** Below are questions to ask when leading a Bible study *through the lens of the Gospel*. These questions are best answered from top to bottom **to avoid legalism or license** in your Bible study together.

1. What does this passage/ verse say about the character and nature of God? (e.g, His holiness, love, sovereignty, grace, divine patience etc).
2. How does the passage/ verse address my sin/ fallen condition?
3. What is the verse commanding me to do, but I can't do or fail to do?
4. How does this verse speak to my motives? Or how does this verse lead me to repent on heart idolatry?
6. How does the verse point me to Christ and His finished work on the cross?
7. How does this verse lead me to praise and thank God?
8. How does this verse inform, guide and enrich my prayer today?
9. What does God want me to do with this verse today?

### **REMEMBER:**

**a) As a Bible study leader**, you want to model godly repentance and show appropriate vulnerability when it's appropriate. Let the text speak to you personally.

**b) Engage others with the questions** above and give them time. In a group when someone is dominating a conversation, it's important to be aware of the time limit and materials you need to cover. Ask people to keep their comments brief. If someone is always quiet, you want them to engage too.

**c) Pray for yourself and your group.** Start the discussion with prayer; or ask someone to pray, and close in prayer together. Taking time to pray helps your group to reflect, repent, rejoice and celebrate the Gospel.