

The Gospel Project for Adults, Spring 2014
Extended Instructional Approaches for Session 8

This week's lesson plan involves an extended *cooperative learning activity*. Please see notes at the end of this lesson plan in regards to the value of this approach.

Step 1:

As each group member arrives, give him or her a colored note card. Just use two colors for two teams unless you have more than 20 attendees. In advance, recruit a group leader for every group of 10 members and review this activity and answer any questions the leader might have. The goal of involving every member in a group is to challenge everyone to engage and contribute, so that no one remains passive.

Both teams have the same assignment: **compare and contrast the ministries of Jonah and Jesus.**

Step 2:

Begin with the question, "What comes to mind when you hear the name 'Jonah'?"

Would it surprise you that Jesus made reference to Jonah and connected their ministries?

With this in mind I want you to join with teammates who have the same color of card and develop a comparison/contrast between their ministries. I recommend that one group member draw a Venn diagram in which you will place your responses.

- Post the focal passages on the board or chart paper.
- Demonstrate a Venn diagram if necessary.
- Suggest to the group leaders in advance that the team members could be subdivided into two groups: one half taking the Jonah passages and one half taking the NT passages.

- One approach would be to provide Post-It Notes for each group member to write comments on. Then the notes could be placed in the appropriate place on the diagram.
- Ask each subgroup to consider the questions, “Am I reacting to God the way Jonah did? Am I running from Him, rationalizing His instructions, or just hiding out?”
- Request that each group have multiple members present their conclusions.

Step 3:

Bring both groups back after about 20 minutes and have several participants from each group discuss/present their conclusions. Your contribution to today’s lesson is to assist both groups in assigning the correct concepts to each category and filling in ideas from your research that they overlook.

Conclusion: *Close with a Challenge.*

Did I need a Savior just as much as the hated Ninevites?

Who came to me to share God’s grace in Jesus?

Who does the Lord want me to reach this week?

Pray that each group member will have the heart of Christ instead of that of Jonah.

Teaching Tip of the Week: *Cooperative Learning Activities*

Research presents strong support for the value of using cooperative learning activities. Despite what some may think, the experience can be extremely beneficial for assisting group members’ comprehension and retention of the lesson. Be sure to give each group a focused assignment, a definite time frame for completing the activity, and a requirement of accountability for the group. In addition, when possible, assign special tasks to group members such as discussion leader, group recorder, detail/fact checker, and presenter.