

The Gospel Project for Adults, Fall 2014
Extended Instructional Approaches for Session 3

Introduction: *Engage their thinking by connecting with childhood.*

In his book *The Seven Basic Plots*, Christopher Booker suggests that there are seven main plots in all of literature. The seven main plots he has defined as follows: Overcoming the Monster; The Quest; Journey and Return; Comedy; Tragedy; Rebirth; and Rags to Riches. Ask, “What was your favorite story when you were a child? Why?” The answers should lead to one of these seven main plots. Say, “God seems to have planted a longing in the human heart from a young age for a ‘better world’ where everyone lives ‘happily ever after.’” Ask, “Why do you think this is?” Answers will probably relate back to the original creation and the fall of mankind.

Part 1: *Digging deeper.*

According to Genesis 1, everything that God made was either “good” or “very good” (Gen. 1:10, 12, 21, 25, 31). Divide your students into two groups. Have the first read Genesis 1 and the second read Genesis 2. Ask them to write down as many examples as they can find of God’s provision for Adam and Eve. Answers might include the seasons, light and darkness, dry land, sun, moon and stars, vegetation, fruit bearing trees, water, minerals, animals, a spouse, and the assignment of work. After five minutes, have them share their answers with the whole class.

Part 2: *Engage their thinking by using “Think-Pair-Share” technique.*

The lesson emphasizes that God placed His royal people (Adam and Eve) in a royal place (the garden of Eden). Ask your group members, “What are some characteristics of royalty that differ from the common person?”

Think for 30 seconds about this question: “Now I want you to discuss your ideas with a person on your left or right who is not your spouse.” (Pause for 60 seconds.) Call on 3-4 pairs to **share** one idea.

Part 3: *Help your group members connect with the major theme.*

Have your students watch the video clip, “Ground Rules,” from the movie *Despicable Me*. It can be found at <http://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/despicable-me/ground-rules> (1 minute, 25 seconds).

Gru sets forth some pretty ridiculous rules for the girls staying at his house. Ask your students to list a few of them. Ask, “What is Gru’s motive for these rules?” The answers should deal with him not wanting them to bother him or to touch any of his things. Then ask, “What is the basis behind God’s rules for us?” Answers should point to His love for us.

Conclusion: *Challenge for application.*

Ask your group members read 1 John 3:1-3. On the white board, make three columns. The first column label “What we are.” Label the second “What we shall be” and the third “What we should do.” From the passage, have your students supply the answers.

The first column answer should be “children of God,” the second: “we shall be like Him and we shall see Him,” and the final column: “those who have this hope should purify themselves as Christ is pure.”

Have your students reflect on these truths and ask them if they are obeying the admonition of 1 John 3:3 to “purify themselves.” If they aren’t, ask them to confess this to God and set specific plans this week to deal with specific areas the Holy Spirit is convicting them in.

Teaching Tip of the Week

Just as there are different ways we prefer to learn (auditory, visual, and kinesthetic), there are also teachers who tend to use teaching methods they are most comfortable with. Visual teachers tend to make a lot of diagrams, charts, and posters. The visual teacher may not talk as freely as the auditory one; chances are they use a lot more silent observation in class and communicate more readily by writing notes or drawing pictures. No teacher is *just* visual; they will have either an auditory or kinesthetic aspect as well. If you ask your students to turn in writing assignments more than participate in verbal discussions, chances are this is your dominant style. See the next Teaching Tip of the Week installment to learn about kinesthetic teachers.