

The Gospel Project for Adults, Spring 2015
Extended Instructional Approaches for Session 3

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

Ask your group members to name three things they are looking forward to in the future. Have 3–4 share with the class.

Part 1: *Engage your group members with a short story.*

Have a group member read this article to your class: <http://www.goal-setting-for-success.com/the-power-of-focus.html>

“The Power of Focus—Keep Your Eyes On the Prize”

There was an interesting motivational talk on this subject given by former Dallas Cowboys coach Jimmy Johnson to his football player:

“I told them that if I laid a two-by four plank across the room, everybody there would walk across it and not fall, because our focus would be that we were going to walk that two-by-four. But if I put that same two-by-four plank 10 stories high between two buildings only a few would make it, because the focus would be on falling. Focus is everything. The team that is more focused today is the team that will win this game.”

Johnson told his team not to be distracted by the crowd, the media, or the possibility of losing, but to focus on each play of the game itself just as if it were a good practice session.

The Cowboys won the game by 52-17.

Ask your group members what their focus is. It should be on the Lord and future glory. If it’s anything else, they need to refocus.

{Anonymous, “The Power of Focus—Keep Your Eyes on the Prize,” Goal-Setting-for-Success.com [online], 2008 [cited 19 February 2015]. Available from the Internet: www.goal-setting-for-success.com.}

Part 2: *Check for application using the “Think-Pair-Share” technique.*

The main precept we focus on in this section is that the church is a colony of heaven. The goal of this exercise is to help them look for practical ways to apply this truth to their lives. Have someone read 2 Corinthians 5:20.

Think-Pair-Share: Ask, “What is an ambassador? Even though one lives in a different country than the one in which he is a citizen, he represents his country of origin. How is this similar to Christians living on earth?” “**Think** for 30 seconds about this. Now I want you to discuss this in **pairs** 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 grasp a concept.*

As the church, we are Christ’s bride. A bride prepares for her wedding. Ask, “What are some ways brides prepare for a wedding ceremony?” Answers might include: picking a dress, making and sending invitations, coordinating with the minister, etc. Then ask, “As Christ’s bride, how should we prepare for our wedding celebration?” Answers should include pursuing purity (1 John 3:3), being a witness (2 Cor. 5:20), and doing good works (Rev. 16:8).

Conclusion: *Challenge for application.*

In this lesson we learned to focus on future glory, that we are a colony of heaven on earth, and that we are the bride of Christ. Ask your class members to choose one of these three concepts and write down on a piece of paper what they are going to do differently now based on the truth they chose. Have a couple of them share with the class.

Teaching Tip of the Week

The imagination is crucial when communicating with students. Too many times our lessons are packed with Bible facts that students can regurgitate but never seem

to be able to apply in their lives. “While the responsibility for their disobedience is totally their own, the responsibility for making the proclamation of God’s truth exciting and personal rests with those of us who preach. The ‘hearers of the Word’ can’t easily become ‘doers’ if their ‘hearing’ doesn’t become ‘seeing.’ ” Seek to engage your students’ “seeing” through the use of stories and metaphors that stimulate their heads and hearts.

{Warren W., Wiersbe, *Preaching and Teaching with Imagination: The Quest for Biblical Ministry* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994), 61.}