

The Gospel Project for Adults, Winter 2015  
Extended Instructional Approaches for Session 7

**Introduction:** *Engage their thinking by connecting with prior experiences.*

Ask, “How many of you were happy with the rules your parents set for you when you were children?” “Why or why not?” Allow the group members to share. There should be some who weren’t happy because they thought their parents were too strict, etc. Then ask, “Did you obey these rules?” “Why or why not?” Some will admit to an outward obedience but not an inward submission. Others will confess that they disobeyed when they could get away with it. With maturity, a child should begin to learn that obedience includes both outward obedience and inward submission.

God is like a parent in that He gives laws and does it for the benefit of His children. Ask, “As children of God, what does our obedience and submission to God’s laws (or lack thereof) say about our understanding of God’s love for us?” Allow group members to answer. They should note a direct correlation between obedience and love (See John 14:15; 1 John 3:16,17,22,23).

**Part 1:** *Engage your group members by having them think more deeply about a definition.*

*Love* is a word that has a variety of meanings. Ask your group members to break into groups of 3-4 and identify five words or phrases that help to define what love means from a biblical perspective. (Pause for 2 minutes.) Call on one person from each group to share one idea with the group.” Then read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 aloud to them. Have them compare God’s description of love with theirs. What are the similarities? What are the differences?

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

Show your group members the video clip “i-dolatry” (1 minute, 39 seconds). This clip is available on Godtube at <http://www.godtube.com/watch/?v=JE9MFFNU>. The author of this short video clip states the following: “Idols come in many forms but they all serve the same purpose; to try to fill the hole in our lives that only the infinite God can fill.”

**Think-Pair-Share:** As your group members watch the video, ask them to try and pick out common idols that we deal with in our society. “**Think** for 30 seconds about these idols...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.

If your students think God will “grade on a curve,” have them read Romans 2:11 and then discuss it in light of Romans 2:1-11.

### **Part 3: *Engaging higher-level thinking.***

Depending on the size of your group, divide your students so that they comprise four groups. Give each group a 3 x 5 card with 2 of these verses so that all 8 verses are covered: Leviticus 10:3; Leviticus 22:32; Numbers 20:12; Psalm 72:18,19; Isaiah 8:3; Luke 1:49; Luke 11:2; Revelation 15:4. Give the group members 5 minutes to look up the verses and discuss what God says about the hallowing or reverencing of His name. Ask, “Why is it important to God that His name be revered?” Answers should focus on His holiness, majesty, and the importance of magnifying God because in Him alone we have forgiveness of sin and He is the only hope of salvation for the world.

### **Conclusion: *Challenge for application.***

It is easy to do the “right thing” but not have the right motive. Have your group members break into groups of 3-4 and read Mark 12:28-34 to them. Ask, “What does Jesus identify as the greatest commandment?” “What is the second greatest?” “What should our motive be for obeying God’s commands?” Encourage them to examine their lives in light of these truths, confess and forsake sin if the Holy Spirit exposes it, and to thank God for His love and His laws.

### **Teaching Tip of the Week**

Learning is built on a foundation. Our job as teachers is to effectively build on that foundation so that learning can occur because real learning does not take place in a vacuum. Spend time thinking about your group members. What do they already know? That is, what is their foundation? Now, what do you want to add to that foundation? Ensure that you can link the two together!