

THE "SWEDISH METHOD" OF BIBLE READING

Why This Approach

This approach is called 'The Swedish Method' after a Swedish small group where it was first used. Here's 5 reasons why the 'Swedish Method' is helpful for us...

1. God spoke to reveal not to hide Himself, which means the bible basically makes sense. It doesn't need experts to make it clear. Anyone with the Spirit can read and understand some of what God's saying. This approach helps us experience that truth for ourselves.
2. It puts us all on the same level, where we're all wrestling with what God's word says, rather than constantly deferring to the 'bible expert' in our Small Group or the study notes in our bible's margins.
3. It teaches the most basic but most difficult skill of reading the bible – actually observing what it says and letting God speak for himself.
4. It's a helpful model for how to read the bible, which you can use again anytime you read it.
5. God's word changes us. God didn't just speak through human authors in the past. He speaks to us right now by the Holy Spirit every time we read and think about His words. This approach helps us experience that truth, especially with the application and sharing icons.

How It Works

EITHER

- Ask people to prepare their answers to the 5 icons (see below) before you meet online, to make the most of your time together.

OR

- When you meet, give people time to come up with an answer for each of the 5 icons (see below), or as many of them as they can.

THEN

- Read the bible passage out loud in your group.
- Take it in turns to share a light bulb moment each, then a question each, and so on, until you've finished all 5 for everyone.
- If you find 5 icons is too many for your group you can cut it back to just 3: lightbulb, question and arrow.
- Pray together in response to what you've read and thought through.

The 5 Icons



Something that stands out from the passage



Something difficult to understand in the passage, or a question you want to ask the author of the passage or God



What you think the big point of the passage is, in a sentence or two



An application for your life from the passage



Something from the passage you want to share with a friend