

Marannook's Bible Study for Training Staff (Counselors)

Why are Biblical studies important? Biblical studies give the answers to the four questions that all cultures ask:

1. Origin? Where did we come from?
2. Destiny? Where are we going?
3. Purpose? Why are we here?
4. Morality? What is right and what is wrong?

At Marannook, we believe that the Scriptures of both the Old and New Testaments are the best means of answering these four questions. And not only answering the questions, but revealing the truth of eternal life in Christ Jesus. To quote the Shorter Catechism of the Westminster Confession of Faith, "The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man." 2 Timothy 3:16-17 states, "All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."

Marannook's approach to Biblical study is teaching the student *how* to study and then giving the student both time to study and an opportunity for personal application as well as application through working with children.

In our Biblical studies, we address four areas.

1. The origin of Scripture—from the mind of God to the mind of man
2. Bible Survey of both the Old and New Testaments
3. The six components of inductive Bible study
 - a. Reading
 - b. Observation
 - c. Interpretation
 - d. Evaluation
 - e. Application
 - f. Correlation
4. The personal application of Scripture as well as the application of Scripture in the context of working with children

Bible Survey and the origin of Scripture are taught through class lectures. Inductive Bible study is taught through a combination of class lectures, mentored independent study within the framework of a book of the Bible, class interaction and discussion, personal application and the opportunity to apply the Word of God to the lives of children within a camp setting.

The summer is divided into four training segments and five camp sessions. The first training segment focuses on intense Bible study of an assigned Book of the Bible as well as the origin of Scripture along with an overview of the Old and New Testaments. The six components of inductive Bible study are taught in a class setting followed by independent study with access to multiple resources, such as concordances, lexicons, word studies, encyclopedias, theological works, confessions of faith and catechisms, and commentaries. Concurrent with the thorough teaching and studying is interactive

discussion with the other Training Staff, the Program Director, and the Bible study teacher. The final phase of the first training segment is instruction in application of the Scriptures to Junior High age campers and includes techniques and information on the teaching of preteens and teenagers. During this time each counselor trainee develops individualized DAP's (Daily Action Plans) to relate Scripture in each and every activity to the campers.

This summer the New Testament book of study for these three weeks will be Colossians. The student will read the book many times and write an outline. Then a good basic commentary will be studied for the background of the book. The focus will be on 5 key passages in Colossians, which will be used for the five days of Junior High Camp. Each passage will be studied using the six components of inductive Bible study. At the end of each study segment, there will be class discussion and interaction. With the conclusion of each of the five studies for the five full days of camp, the student will spend time planning their days with the Junior High campers and developing detailed lesson plans. Basically what they are doing is taking the Word of God and interweaving it into the camp activities as well as the entire day. These three weeks include 16 hours of teaching, 56 hours of study, 20.5 hours of interactive discussion, and 63.5 hours of camp preparation. Camp preparation includes such things as training in the camp activities, emergency medical procedures, and working with Junior High campers.

After the first segment of training, the student is now ready to work with six to seven Junior High campers from Sunday afternoon through Friday evening. This gives the counselors the opportunity to apply what they have learned. The staff is trained to lead, love, limit, and let them go.

The second training segment, while using the same outline as segment one in continuing the inductive Bible study, focuses on teaching and working with rising first through fourth grade children and looks at an Old Testament book of the Bible. These two weeks include 5.5 hours of teaching, 40.5 hours of independent study, 10 hours of interactive discussion, and 45 hours of camp preparation, including the individual development of DAP's "Daily Action Plans or Lesson Plans".

Following the second training segment, the counselors work with first through fourth graders, with no more than six children each. The idea is to apply the Scripture in a fun, exciting, and memorable way to every aspect of the children's camp experience.

Training segment number three is a one week period continuing in the same general outline as segments one and two. This week provides an opportunity to prepare for children entering the fifth through seventh grades. The emphasis is on correlating the five key passages in the Old Testament book of study with the key passages in the New Testament book of study. The student will use a similar Daily Action Plan as in the first through fourth grade training, but adapted to the proper age/grade level. Included in this week is 3.5 hours of teaching, 10 hours of individual study, 5 hours of interactive discussion, and 31.75 hours of camp preparation.

Two weeks of camp follow the third training segment. The counselor/camper ratio is 1 to 6 for the fifth and sixth graders and 1 to 7 for the seventh graders.

After each of the three camp periods, careful evaluation of the camp and the teaching and application opportunities are conducted, along with evaluating the effectiveness of the pre-camp training. Training

segment four, which lasts four days, includes ten hours of teaching. The emphasis is on preparing the student to go back into the world. We have a six hour class teaching on the Gospel, the church, and the kingdom of God; a two hour class on financial stewardship; and a two hour class on calling. Also, this time includes debriefing, reflection, planning, and goal setting.

Summary of the four training segments:

Teaching	75.0 hours
Study	106.5 hours
Discussion	35.5 hours
Camp Preparation	140.25 hours

Summary of the five camper weeks:

- Junior High
- First—fourth grade
- First—fourth grade
- Fifth—seventh grade
- Fifth—seventh grade

What makes Marannook’s Biblical studies program unique is that we provide a platform for teaching and study in a pure, uninterrupted environment, and an opportunity to learn these study methods in over 100 hours of personal Bible study. And within this context, we give the student the opportunity to not only apply the Scriptures to their own life, but to the lives of children with whom they work.