

BIBLE SMASH!

Hello,

and thanks for checking out Bible SMASH - an intense Bible study intended for students in your youth group that are interested in taking their commitment to God to the next level. I'll start with an overview of each "section" of the Bible SMASH and then explain how it all works together. We all work differently. Feel free to take these lessons and change them around as you think it will work best with your youth group. I have developed a pattern that I have found works well for me and my youth group and that is what I am sharing with you here.

The Sections of Bible SMASH

Study: Students are given a passage, or passages, to study during their time alone with God.

Memorize: Students are also given a verse, or a couple verses, that they are to memorize during their time alone studying.

Analyze: Information from commentaries has been placed here. This will allow students to understand what the passage meant at the time it was written and how it applies to their life today.

Share: This is a blank place to take notes on something someone else in their group may have shared. It's place to jot down stuff while they "teach each other".

Honor: A prayer, thought, or idea is given on this page. Something that helps the students focus their attention on God. I usually summarize what the lesson was about.

Before the Bible SMASH begins

Location: I choose to have the Bible SMASH in peoples homes. I usually rotate through the families of the students that attend the Bible SMASH, although it could be held at any home. I hold the Bible SMASH in a home because I want it to be in a setting that is not the same as church (Sunday School) or the youth group, and I want it to be a setting that is comfortable for learning (relaxed and casual). I ask that the host provide a light snack for the students at the end of the Bible SMASH.

Music: We usually open our Bible SMASH with a few songs. Mostly choruses, but some times hymns. As my wife and I are not “musically gifted” we typically just use Christian CDs and sing along to them. WOW has several good CDs that are composed of various artists and styles of music. We try to select music that relates to the topic of the lesson. If you choose music that the students are not already familiar with you may want to type out the lyrics ahead of time and photo copy them for your students.

During the Bible SMASH

(steps 1-3 take a total of about 1/2 hour)

- 1) I usually start our time together just talking a bit with the students. We talk a little about how each student is doing spiritually and talk about how they were able to apply last months Bible SMASH to their lives. If they were unable to apply it we may discuss why? (It didn't relate to them, they forgot, they didn't have time...)
- 2) We open with a word of prayer.
- 3) We sing the choruses.

(step 4 takes about 1/2 hour)

- 4a) Students are given page 1 only. We give them verbal instructions along this line: Find a place in this house were you can be alone with God. It can be the kitchen table, on the stairs, on the couch, where ever, but it should just be you and God. (We have one teen that likes to sit in the tub of the host home.) You will be given about a half an hour to read your verses, memorize your verses, and pray and listen to God. Use the “Notes” section of you page to take notes on what you learn or to “clear you mind”. If you start thinking of things you need to do or distractions come to mind. Write them here so that you won't forget them and then put them out of your mind. If you get done early take the extra time to talk with God. Do not spend the time talking with other students. This it time for YOU to be with God. (We sometimes have to be the “quiet police” when students talk) If you need more time - take as much time as you need.

4b) While the students are off reading the passages the adults then have time to read the “Analyze” section and the “Leader’s Guide” section. The Analyze section will give adults background information on what the verses meant at the time they were written and some ideas of how to apply them to our lives today. The Leaders Guide provides questions to help facilitate discussion on the assigned verses. I usually share most of what is in the analyze section during our discussion time as the information relates to each question asked. By the end of the discussion time my students have heard most of what is in the Analyze section - and the adults can feel well educated without having to do any pre-Bible study research.

(step 5 takes about 1/2 hour to 45 minutes)

5) When the student return from their time with God we break into small groups. The smallest a group should be is 2 students to one adult. The largest a small group should be is up to you. I don’t recommend a ratio of more than 6 students to 1 adult. I usually pass out the “Share” page for the kids to take notes on at this time. If you don’t have enough leaders or students to break into small groups than count this as step 6. I start by asking the students what they initially got anything out of the verses or if God spoke to them at all during their time with God. As mentioned in step 4b I then go through the list of questions with them while sharing information from the Analyze section with them. This is the time that is spent going in depth to what the verses mean. When all the small groups are done we meet again as one large group.

(step 6 takes about 20 minutes)

6) At this time I give the students all the rest of the pages (they get it all - even the Leader’s Guide portion. The idea is that they now have all the resources available to them to share this Bible study with their friends should the occasion ever come up. Also, some of my students will read the information on their own at a later time and most of them save these in a 3-ring notebook of some sort.) We then give the students a chance to share with each other what they learned in their small groups. This gives the students a chance to be leaders among them selves as well as gives them some ownership to what they have just learned. I try to answer any more questions that may come up to the best of my ability. If you don’t know an answer just be honest and tell the student(s) you don’t know and that you will find out and get back to them. Make sure you get the answer and try to get back to them within 2 days. Your senior pastor should be able to help you craft a response that is appropriate for your students.

(step 7 takes about 5-10 minutes)

7) We then read the “Honor” page. Usually a student volunteers to read it out loud. We talk a little about what it means and how it applies to each of us personally

(step 8 takes about 5-10 minutes)

8) We then talk about how the lesson, as a whole, applies to our lives and discuss changes we can make in our lives to incorporate what we have learned. I usually write down what each student says they will try to do (and then ask them at the next Bible SMASH if they were able to meet their personal goals). The adults should also be applying these changes to their lives and be living examples to the students.

9) We then close in prayer.

10) We eat food!

I hope you find these Bible studies helpful to your students. Feel free to contact me with any questions, suggestions, comments, or just to let me know how things are going in your youth group. I love to hear about other youth groups and what God is doing in the lives of other students and fellow youth leaders.

In Christ's name,
-Brian

brian@brianbollinger.com

Credit

Brian Bollinger
Early Youth and Junior High Youth Pastor
Wollaston Church of the Nazarene
37 East Elm Avenue
Quincy, MA 02170
617.472.5669
www.brianbollinger.com

Permission

Permission is granted to use this Bible SMASH for not-for-profit use only. You may download and photocopy this lesson for your Bible study (or other personal use). When making copies of this lesson please make sure to include the “Credits” and “Permission” sections with the copies. For permission to use this lesson in a for-profit situation or for publication please contact the person(s) listed in the “Credit” section. Thank you and enjoy the lesson.