

# **Reformed University Fellowship**

## **Leading Bible Studies Conference**

### *Session 1: Overview of Epistle*

- I. Introduction.
  - A. Questions.
    - 1. How much do you value the Bible?
    - 2. How convinced are you that God helps us everyday?
  - B. Psalm 1.
    - 1. Is the Word of God your delight?
    - 2. Do you meditate on it day and night?
    - 3. The contrast shows that those who do not love the scriptures are like chaff: unfruitful, fit to be blown away or burned.
    - 4. This Psalm continually challenges me.
  - C. Psalm 119:49-56.
    - 1. Is scripture your comfort? (v. 50) Does it revive you and give you new strength?
    - 2. Do you strongly adhere to scripture? (v. 51)
    - 3. Are you indignant about those who forsake scripture? (v. 53)
    - 4. Is scripture your song? (v. 54)
    - 5. Do you remember scripture in the night? (v. 55)
    - 6. Let's pray that God would change us, and conform us to be like this.  
(Lead group in prayer.)
- II. Philippians or 1 John: Observations.
  - A. Initial Impressions. Everyone get out your pre-course assignments. Initially, what impressions did you have of Philippians or 1 John?  
(Record on overhead.)
  - B. What repeated or prominent words or ideas did you observe?  
(Record on overhead.)
- III. Major Sections.
  - A. Have two or three volunteers (or conscripts) write their outlines of Philippians or 1 John on the blackboard. Affirm their efforts and comment on the good points. Address errors only if they are serious.
  - B. State that our purpose is to **begin** to understand Philippians or 1 John. We will not try to agree on an outline now, however there clearly would be one best outline if we had enough time to study it.

- C. Show **your** outline on the overhead projector.
  
  - D. Conclusion.
- IV. Main Theme.
- A. Ask for several people to share (audibly, not on the blackboard) their main theme of Philippians or 1 John. Remind them that it is really premature to pick a main theme without studying the whole passage; this is just an initial attempt. Comment briefly and affirmatively on their suggestions.
  
  - B. Share your main theme (use overhead). Comment briefly.
- V. Applications.
- A. Ask for several applications we might make from Philippians or 1 John. Comment briefly and share yours.
  
  - B. Basic Applications.
    - 1.
  
  - C. Share two or three concrete ways an individual or group would incorporate these applications into his life.
  
  - D. Be open to God this weekend. My hope is that His word will transform our lives, even this weekend at this training conference.
- VI. Prayer.
- A. Have each small group respond to the study of Philippians or 1 John by praying.
  - B. The small group leader should close by 9:25.
- VII. Important Announcements:
- A. Housing and driving instructions are in their folders.
  - B. Go straight to host's homes.
  - C. Lights out by 11:00 (or shortly thereafter).
  - D. Return by 8:30 AM Saturday morning.
  - E. Use Quiet Time Guide in folders tomorrow morning.

**Reference Verses**

	<i>Chapter 1</i>	<i>Chapter 2</i>	<i>Chapter 3</i>	<i>Chapter 4</i>	<i>Chapter 5</i>	<i>Chapter 6</i>	<i>Other</i>
Holy Spirit	2, 5, 8	4, 18, 33, 38, 42-47		8	3, 9	3, 10	8:15-20
Witnesses	8	32	15	33	20, 42		
Unity	14	1, 14	4	32-35	12		
Prayer	14, 24	42	1	23-32		4, 6	
Power	8		12	7, 33		8	
Wonders and Signs		19, 22		16, 22, 30	12	8	
Scripture		all		all			
Growing/ Increasing		41			14, 42	7	9:31, 12:24