

# Equipping the Saints

by Verna Dozier

This approach uses more than one translation and studies the Bible in significant segments — not verse by verse. Try to find several translations and encourage group member to bring one or more translations with them. Preferably each person will have at least two translations. You will also need at least one and preferably two or more commentaries. If a commentary or reflection by someone from another culture is available, it would be helpful to read as part of the discussion in Step 3. It would give one perspective on the passage that speaks to its meaning today; the group then would identify the passage's meaning for them.

If you want to know more about this approach before using it, obtain a copy of Dozier's book *Equipping the Saints* or view a copy of one of the videos: *The Story of the Bible/How to Teach the Bible* or *Verna Dozier Looks at Luke*.

- Step 1. Clarify what the passage is saying.  
What do the words in the passage mean?  
Why do certain translations use different words?  
What do commentaries say about any obscurities in the passage?  
What nuances do the words have that may not be apparent in English?
- Step 2. Clarify why the passage was preserved.  
What was the significance of this passage to the community that preserved it?  
What were the issues they were dealing with at the time?  
How did this passage speak to those issues?
- Step 3. Reflect on what the passage means for us today.  
What is the passage calling me/us to do?

Close the group meeting with prayer.

*One of the Bible or lectionary study guides contributed by the members  
of the North American Association for the Catechumenate.  
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