



## Making the Bible Central in Training Leaders

By Scott Newton

This past month we saw the beginning of something we have been dreaming of, praying for, and preparing for for nearly a decade: a new church plant in Barcelona Spain. One of the greatest blessings God has given us is to have right from the start there young men who are recent converts to Christ and who are excited about helping in any way they can. As we chose as the central defining word of our church name 'Bíblica', or 'Biblical', I told these young men we wanted everything we do, say, and teach to be (entered on God's Word. Their question to me was, "How do we accomplish that?" I am far from an expert or even a veteran church planter but I thought I'd share what we are trying to do to make the Bible central.

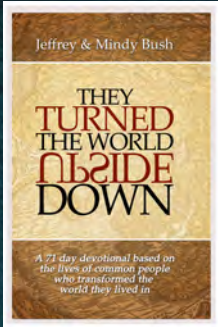
**1. Don't Study Alone!** This has been difficult, because I love to get alone and study the Word uninterrupted. While doing so is still important, I have found that meeting at least once a week with these young men after a few days of study on my own (and encouraging them to do the same) BEFORE the Sunday service to pray over, study, and apply the passage together has been hugely beneficial to them, myself, and the rest of the church. They are far more excited about the sermon and more likely to invite others to come and hear it if they have ownership in it. This past week I used two illustrations from one of them, and another key application that came from the other. They were totally tuned in, brought visitors, and actively sought to talk about the passage to as many as would listen!

**2. Wrap the Service Around the Text!** Along with, "How do I need to live this out before Sunday?", one of the questions we ask after we end our study session and compare notes, is, "How can the rest of the service serve to emphasize the main point of the passage?" I have been super impressed with their choices of songs, Bible reading passages, and offering devotional verses. When I greet people on the way out and ask them what they learned, they seem to know clearly that the main point of the passage was the point of the service. Since this Sunday we preached from Colossians 1 about Christ the Triumphant King and His Grateful People, we sang about His Lordship, read a Psalm about thanksgiving, and emphasized gratitude as the motivation for giving. I am finding that training men in Gospel ministry is very effective when all you do points them to the Scripture and helps them take personal responsibility for getting the Word of God to the flock: it's not just the pastor's job!

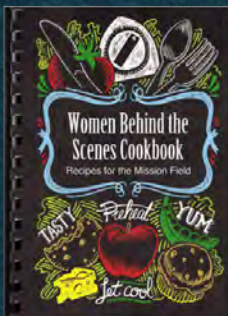




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