

LEARNING ACTIVITY GUIDE

Topical Study Materials

NOTE: This activity can be used with ANY topical interest. The specific design here was originally developed for Christian workers. Pick a similar basic text FOR NEW READERS on your topic in your language.

The initial book in the Bible Way series (or similar basic Bible Study) in the Swahili language will give you intensive practice with religious vocabulary. The emphasis in this activity **will not be translation** into English, but comprehension and discussion **in the target language**. Discuss each lesson in a session with your language helper. Read portions of the lesson orally, discuss the general topic, or particular questions from the text.

(For advanced levels, this Guide may apply to Theological Education by Extension materials also.)

Goals: To provide more extensive exposure to religious material in your target language.

To give advanced opportunities for formulating ideas in the language and for discussing topics flexibly.

To assist the learner to move past initial "translation" approaches into comprehension of the original text within its own context and discussion of it without the limitation of English.

To build general oral comprehension through discussion, question and answer.

Format:

1. You should read and prepare the lesson before meeting your language helper. Refer to Activity Guide for Readings, steps 1 through 5. Observe these steps carefully.

2. **Do not** write out a full text English translation. Take notes as necessary for new words and concepts. Translation is **not** the major focus -- **comprehension** is, along with oral discussion.

3. Try to clarify new words by discussion or elicitation of further examples in sentences. Get your language helpers to explain **in the language** as much as possible, by giving examples, drawing pictures, etc. For certain **technical** words, English equivalents may be helpful. **BUT TRY TO AVOID LIMITING YOURSELF BY THE ENGLISH.**

4. Discuss questions in the text or at the end of lessons. **THIS SHOULD BE DONE IN THE TARGET LANGUAGE.** This is **critical** if this exercise is to help you deal with lessons in a church setting.

5. Take the exam(s) and send them in as other students of Bible Way.