

Leading a Small Group Bible Study

Leading a small group bible study can be one of the most exciting and satisfying experiences of your Christian life. You can also greatly influence and impact your group members.

Here are some helpful tips for leading a bible study small group.

KNOW YOUR BIBLE STUDY GROUP:

- Know every member of your small group by name.
- If there are visitors, make sure that you acknowledge them and introduce them to the group.

PREPARATION:

- Preparation is the most important part of leading a bible study group – be well prepared in advance. You will not only be a blessing to those you lead, but you will be personally enriched by the time you spend studying God’s Word in preparing your study.
- When possible, give your attendees advanced notice of what scripture passages you will be studying at your next meeting; this will give them a chance to contribute with knowledge and confidence.
- Form questions from the verses you are covering. Reference applicable scriptures (use a concordance).
- If you use study guides for preparation, use it as a guide only! Do your own research as well.
- The use of bible dictionaries and commentaries are great tools.

YOU ARE A FACILITATOR AND NOT A PREACHER:

- Remember that you are not a preacher; you are a facilitator of the discussion group. Let others speak.
- Communicate your questions well, rephrase it if necessary.
- Don’t let it be silent for a long time, but allow time for thought. Give hints, ask individuals.
- You will always find a few people more responsive than others. But, don’t let it be a discussion between just 2 or 3 people.
- Many times, you will find the discussion being side tracked or distracted by a particular topic.
- Use your judgment, to continue or bring the group back to the main idea or passage.
- If there is some major important issue, let the discussion continue. The idea is to learn and to draw closer to Christ through His Word, not necessarily to stick to the passage.

TIME MANAGEMENT:

- It is essential to have fixed start and finish times. If your group runs late every week individuals will stop attending. People have work in the morning and responsibilities to attend to at home.
- Begin with a brief greeting (“*How was everybody’s week?*”). Consider either beginning or ending with about 10 minutes of prayer/requests. Then have approximately 45-60 minutes of bible study time.
- If there is some important theological discussion going on, you can announce the conclusion of the bible study, but continue the discussion, so that those who need to leave can go.
- Don’t try to finish the passage because you run out of time. You can continue next week.

REMEMBER:

- ❖ Know small group members by name
- ❖ Identify your subject topic
- ❖ Begin and end on time.
- ❖ Ask relevant questions
- ❖ If your small group does not understand, rephrase your question.
- ❖ Use your study materials as a guide, but do your own research and use your own experiences.
- ❖ If you don’t know the answers say so – announce you’ll look up the answer for your next meeting.
- ❖ Encourage the quiet ones and control the talkative; Keep the lesson on point, but allow the Spirit to work.
- ❖ Appreciate individuals for good ideas or answers.
- ❖ Try to remember you’ve gathered to learn.
- ❖ Periodically take a break from your regular Bible study format and enjoy each other’s company.