

Leading A Small Group Study

There are many ways to teach God's Word. One way is in a small group where a leader encourages everyone to take part, and they learn together. However for this to be effective the leader needs to develop skills to give good direction to the group. Here are some guidelines:

1. PREPARATION



(a) Prepare your heart : Pray

- Spend time with the Lord, asking him to be glorified in all you do, and to help you lead
- Pray for those who will be in your group that the Holy Spirit will open their hearts and guide the conversation

(b) Prepare your mind : Study

Read 2 Timothy 2:15

- If you have the questions or passage early then study yourself
- Think how you would answer the questions. Are there examples from your life you can share?



(c) Prepare questions

Questions are like tools!

- Questions help us get everyone involved
- Questions help everyone discover the truths for themselves



There are 3 kinds of questions:-

- Observation questions – help us see what is in the passage (like comprehension questions)
- Interpretation questions – help us think about what the verse or passage means
- Application questions – help us think how to apply the verse or passage to our daily lives

Most prepared Bible studies will include some, or all of these kinds of questions.

2. PROCEDURE

- Welcome everyone. If there is someone new introduce them to the group. It is good for the other members to give their names too so the visitor feels 'at home'.
- Spend a few minutes finding out how everyone has been over the past week.
- Before commencing the Bible study open in prayer, either yourself, or another member.
- Begin the questions.
- Allow the Holy Spirit to lead you. Remember you are to **lead** the discussion time.
- At the end summarize the most important lessons or truths you have learnt in your group.
- Close in prayer
- Spend some time sharing needs and praying for one another.

3. PARTICIPATION



A. WHEN YOU HAVE DIFFICULTIES WITH PEOPLE

In a small group it is good to get everyone involved in some way, depending on their ability. But in every group there are different kinds of people.

(a) The shy/new person

Your difficulty

- This person may have little Bible knowledge
- They are very shy
- They may not speak English well

What to do?

- Speak to them by name
- Invite them to read a verse
- Ask simple questions you think they can answer
- If they don't want to speak be understanding



(b) The talkative person

Your difficulty

- This person can be a real help, but sometimes may 'take over' the group and lead it in another direction

What to do?

- Be careful not to always ask them the questions
- Don't always look at them!
- Ask others by name to try and answer
- Sometimes you may need to suggest others have a turn



(c) The side tracker

Your difficulty

- This person keeps asking questions that are not relevant

What to do?

- Decide whether it is good to spend time on that question
- If not, then briefly answer the question and go back to the topic
- Suggest you discuss the question later
- Remind the group of the original question: "Let's get back to the question."

B. WHEN YOU HAVE DIFFICULT QUESTIONS

At times when you lead a group you may have difficulty with some of the questions. What are you to do?

(a) When no-one can answer

- Don't be afraid of a little silence
- You may need to repeat the question or re-word it
- Avoid answering the question yourself

(b) When the wrong answer is given

- Avoid saying it is wrong
- Invite others to give answers and commend the correct answer
- If the answer is partly true, say: "That's good, can anyone add to that?"

(c) When an incomplete answer is given

- Encourage the group to give other suggestions
- You could say: "Is there any other answers? What else can we add to that?"
- At times you may need to ask other questions so you can reach the answer



(d) When a difficult question is asked by the group

- If no-one can answer, then try and answer yourself
- If you don't know the answer don't be ashamed
- Offer to find the answer from someone else and give it to them later