

Leading a Bible Study

The study of Scripture is a life-changing experience. The Bible is unlike any other book. When the writer of Hebrews wrote that the “word of God is living and active...” he was stating Scripture does more than provide a history of God’s dealings with humankind. It also actively reveals truth and how we are to live in light of such truth. Studying the Bible ought to never be an experience that leaves us unaffected!

You as a discipleship leader will have at least some responsibility in the creation and development of multiple Bible study groups. In most circumstances these will be the small groups/family groups that mark your BCM structure. Intentional care needs to be given to insure the leaders of these groups prepare adequately and facilitate skillfully such meaningful encounters. (Note: Even with the multitude of good Christian discipleship study material available, the study of Scripture is still the most important life-changing experience of such endeavors because of the reason already stated. Following are some ideas that can help you better equip the leaders of these Bible study groups.

- Key to effective Bible study groups is leadership. When the leader of the group is prepared the group session has direction and purpose. Without preparation the session can drift and not be as impacting as it could have been. Preparation among other things means the leader has studied the material adequately and has a working plan of how the session will go.
- Bible study group preparation by the leader also means that she/he has prayed daily for those who are scheduled to attend. Prayer for individuals in the group also strengthens the relationships and trust in the group.
- An effective Bible study leader will be a learner himself. When one is sharing out of an overflow of his life there is a different emphasis and life from when one is speaking from a theoretical or philosophical vantage point. A good leader is a growing Christ follower who is excited about what she is learning when she does personal Bible study.
- When Scripture is the study the group does just that-studies Scripture! The power of the written WORD can accomplish change in the lives of students that the study of other material that only references the WORD cannot.
- A good Bible study leader understands his role as a facilitator. Small group Bible study is not meant to be a preaching or lecture experience. It is an opportunity for students to learn from each other, sharing insights they have gleaned and collectively coming to a new or deeper understanding of the application of biblical teaching. The leader facilitates this process seeking to involve all who are there.
- An effective Bible study leader will ask the “So what” kind of question during the course of the session. Application is everything. If students do not act on what they believe truth to be then the time has only been an exercise in academia.
- A good leader will become skilled in asking good questions for the group to consider. (Note: Good questions don’t require the leader to answer them.) This is an art that requires time and practice. What is the gist of the issue being discussed and what are the important applications that the group collectively and individually needs to grapple with.
- Here are some important questions to consider when the leader is preparing for a Bible study session.

- ✓ What are the circumstances/setting surrounding the passage?
- ✓ Are there words you do not understand? If so, use a dictionary.
- ✓ What is the general meaning of the passage?
- ✓ Why do you think this passage is in Scripture?
- ✓ What do you need to personally do in response to this passage?

Enlisting, equipping, and encouraging small group Bible study leaders is one of the most important tasks you will have responsibility for. Pray diligently throughout the process. After the designated close of these groups it will be helpful for you to have an evaluation meeting with each group leader to better determine how you can better help leaders for the next round of studies. Every time one leads a group there is something new gained from the experience. Be willing to adapt routines to help make these times more meaningful for the leaders and those involved.