

# Leading A Small Group Bible Study

## I. Basic Info To Keep In Mind For Success

- A. Encourage people to be on time and start the meeting no more that 5 min. late. This means leaders must be ready to start on time
- B. The entire meeting should take no longer than 1.5 hours. It is important to meet these time requirements because of other commitments students have.
- C. If you allow Scripture memory to slide by one week, chances are it will slide for the rest of the semester.
- D. Make prayer a priority for your group. Pray for each other and the prayer requests of members. Pray also for attentiveness, wisdom, and teachability.
- E Try not to get bogged down on any one thing. Keep the study focused and moving.
- F. Don't feel guilty if you fail to complete the study in designated time or semester. Make an honest attempt and use the time God has given you. Just give it your best shot.

- G. The key to good Bible study is good questions. Develop good and open-ended questions that spark discussion
- H. Use a translation, not a paraphrase.
- I. When doing your Bible Study, do a little each day. It can be hard doing it all the day before or the day of the meeting.
- J. If God directs you to “chase a rabbit”, do it. Don’t worry about finishing the formal study when God is causing you to search in a different area. However, be on your guard for people who consistently cause the group to chase these “rabbits.” This is a good indication they are not working on their study through the week. Keep the group focused on the task at hand.
- K. Stay in contact with group members throughout the week. It does not matter how many times you have met, they will still need a reminder.
- L. Foster a sense on community among your group. This helps to provide the “want to” for members to show up when they don’t feel like it.

## II. Leading the Study

- A. Start on time
- B. Prayer
- C. Discuss the Bible Study
  - 1. Ask questions
  - 2. Try to involve everyone in the discussion
  - 3. Stay focused
  - 4. Stress application
  - 5. Scripture Memory
  - 6. Pray
- D. Dismiss and/or hang out.

## III. Some Do’s and Don’ts of leading a Bible Study.

### Do’s:

- 1. Think through how you are going to lead the study. (Be Prepared)
- 2. Get everyone involved.
- 3. Make people feel comfortable and accepted.
- 4. Ask questions that cause discussion.
- 5. Stay within the 1.5 hour time frame unless all group members give you permission to go longer.
- 6. Make prayer a priority

7. Emphasize application!!!

Don'ts

1. Don't be afraid of silence, let them think before they answer.
2. Don't monopolize the discussion.
3. Don't let others monopolize the discussion.
4. Don't ask yes or no questions (they don't allow for discussion).
5. Don't be afraid to say, "I don't know".
6. Don't spend too much time on one area.
7. Don't let people get away with incomplete applications

*\*Compiled by Jeff Ford, BCM Campus Minister, Valdosta State*