

# Leading Bible Study

Leading Study Discussion

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# Before the Event

- Prayer
  - Yourself – understanding, applying, cleansing
  - The group
- The Setting
  - Comfort – temperature, lighting, distractions, noise, food & drinks
  - Seating – relaxed or intense, empty seat

# Before the Event

- Group size
  - Minimum 5-6
  - Maximum 9-10
- Timing – starts and ends on time
  - 15 min for coffee
  - Starts at \_\_\_\_\_

# Before the Event

- Confidence & trust
  - Your mood will affect others
  - It's God's Words not yours
  - It's the group, not just you
  - It's time for you to learn from others

# Group Guidelines

- Discussions, not lectures
- Participation is essential
- Listen attentively to one another
- Try to stick to the topic
- More obvious observation questions will build the foundation for interpretation questions
- Responses should be based on the verses, only rarely would refer to other portions of the Bible
- Avoid quoting other speakers, commentary if possible
- Confidentiality

# Leading - Silence

- Show enthusiasm about the study
- Avoid answering your own questions
  - Relax
  - Repeat
  - Rephrase
- Interpreting silence
  - People are thinking
  - Don't understand the question - rephrase
  - Lost – break question down, point to verses, give examples, clues

# Leading - Elaboration

- Be affirming
  - Praise often
  - Praise even partial answers
  - That's right. That's an excellent point. Yes. Wow, isn't that interesting? Good observation.
- Follow-up by:
  - Would you elaborate on that?
  - Explain what makes you think that?
  - Would you point us to where you see that?
  - Now that \_\_\_\_\_ points us to the verse, do we see additional information?
  - Do others have anything to add?

# Leading - Error

- Handling wrong answers
  - Which verse point you to that conclusion?
  - If that's true, what would be the result/consequence?
  - Are there other possible interpretation?
  - What do other people think?
  - Be willing to admit when you don't know or are wrong.
  - Be willing to do more study or research if necessary

# Leading - Participation

- Encouraging participation
  - Encourage preparing beforehand
  - Ask quieter person to read or pray
  - Ask “\_\_\_\_, what do you think?”
  - Can other people help us?
  - What do other people think/feel?
- Handling monopoly
  - Direct your questions to others
  - Let's find out what other people think.
  - Why don't we hear from those who have not spoken yet?
  - Can anyone think of other possibilities?
  - Speak 1:1 in private

# Leading - Tangent

- Handling tangents
  - These are interesting discussions. Maybe we can have a separate study on that topic in the future.
  - Let's return to the current text.
  - In the interest of time, let's move on to verses...
  - I appreciate the group's enthusiasm, let's move on...

# Evaluation

- Preparation
- Prayer
- Leading
- Handling problems
- Coaching
- “Please be patient, God is not finished with me yet.”