

How to Lead a Bible Study – Part 5

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I. Introduction.

II. Handling problems in the group.

A. Someone who wants to dominate can be handled by asking the person to help draw others out.

The last resort is to tell the person to pull back. (Proverbs 14:23; 13:13)

B. Someone who is silent can be drawn out through simple questions or by spending time with that person.

C. Wrong answers can be addressed by asking what someone else thinks. The Word of God can also be referred to. Do not simply tell the person he or she is wrong.

D. Detours can be addressed by recognizing it and saying, “That is very perceptive, but maybe we can talk more about that later.”

E. Do not be afraid of silence in a Bible discussion group.

F. Do not be afraid to say, “I don’t know.”

III. There is a tremendous responsibility in leading a Bible study group. (James 2:1-3)

A. Leaders must love and care for those they teach. (1 Timothy 1:5)

B. If you really love, you will correct them. (Proverbs 28:23)

C. (Leviticus 19:17; Ezekiel 3:20)

IV. Things to watch out for in a Bible study group.

A. Watch out for the wicked who accuse. (Proverbs 12:6)

B. Watch out for the legalist. (Isaiah 29:13)

C. Watch out for those who have made up their minds to walk away from God. (Jeremiah 6:16; Hebrews 6:4-6; 10:26-31; 2 Peter 2:19-22; 1 Corinthians 5:5)

V. Make up your mind what you want your group to accomplish. (1 John 5:13)

VI. Encourage young believers in their quiet time, Scripture memory, Bible study, witness involvement in ministry. (Matthew 4:7-10; Psalm 119:9-11; 2 Timothy 3:17; Ephesians 5:16)

VII. Three aspects of training individuals. (2 Timothy 3:10)

A. Knowledge.

B. Skills.

C. Character.

VIII. Traps.

A. Comparing your ability to lead a Bible study group to another's. (2 Corinthians 10:12)

B. The temptation to quit. (Ecclesiastes 7:80)

C. Discouragement. (2 Timothy 1:7; Philippians 3:14)

IX. Ingredients that make a Bible discussion successful.

A. Start with one person with a desire for the Lord, sift in a few others who are eager plus some others who want to know Jesus, blend in an interesting and balanced course of study, add a cup of prayer and preparation, add in a tablespoon of common sense, drop in a pinch of humor, skin off religious language, season in a generous portion of acceptance, remove self-effort and allow the Holy Spirit to lead hearts to worship.

Application questions:

1. What is involved in careful Bible study planning?

2. What traps are you most prone to in Bible study leading?

3. How can you approach problems in your group better? Explain.
