

Leader Copy

“STUDY”

[Please remember to forward your group attendance to the church office!]

Ice Breaker (Target time: 10 minutes – Allow time for new introductions)

What was your favorite subject in school? Would it still be your favorite subject today?

Centering on Jesus' Presence (Target time: 5 minutes)

[Ask the group to close their eyes and focus on God's righteousness. Then, after a moment, read Psalm 119.89-105 aloud and ask them to make it the group's prayer.]

Psalm 119.89-105

Applying the Scriptures (Target time: 40 minutes)

[Play the DVD...Session II...STUDY...5 minutes]

Read Matthew 7.24-28

According to this Scripture, what does Jesus call His followers to do with His words? *[Leader: We are to both hear them and put them into practice.]*

How does Jesus describe the results of applying His words to daily life? *[Leader: His followers will be able to withstand the “storms of life”...ask what those “storms” can look like.]*

What are some ways we can learn and understand Jesus' words (in other words, what are some ways we can study the Bible)? *[Leader: Read the Bible regularly as an individual, use a devotional guide, enroll in a Bible class, participate in a small group (!), etc.]*

Read II Timothy 3.16-17.

What's so special about the Bible? *[Leader: It is "God-breathed," which means that God inspired its writers and insures that its teachings are completely trustworthy.]*

How is the Bible useful to us? *[Leader: It is useful for teaching, rebuking (identifying sin), correcting, and training/equipping Jesus' followers for ministry.]*
What are some of the things that keep people from "digging into the Bible?"
[Open discussion]

What parts or passages of the Bible have been particularly meaningful to you or have impacted your life? What parts or passages of the Bible have been difficult for you to understand or have tended to lose your interest? *[Open Discussion]*

How does gathering together in a small group help followers of Jesus to understand and apply the Bible? *[Leader: We can hear others' understandings of particular Bible passages and insure we're not reading them with our own "slant;" we can hear how others apply the Bible in their daily lives.]*

Have you ever been (or are you currently) a part of a small-group or classroom study of the Bible? What were the best things about your experience? Did you experience anything negative? *[Open Discussion]*

Take a few moments of silent prayer and ask God's leading on this question:
"Are you calling me to study the Bible regularly and purposefully? Are you leading me to study a specific topic or passage in the Bible that has relevance for me at this time? What group setting would be best for me as I study Your word?"

Prayer time:

* How can we specifically rejoice or give thanks with you this week? *[Leader: You may want to offer a prayer after a time of sharing, or you may want to ask a group member to close in prayer after you open the prayer time.]*

Vision Moments (Target time: 5 minutes)

[Again, let the group members know about upcoming topics; explain the way the lessons are tied to the Sunday sermons and to the church's mission/vision of making disciples of Jesus. Remind everyone that various Bible study materials are in the church office and library for use in future individual or group studies.]