

General principles

- ◆ The following general principles will help you make a successful Bible Study:
 - ◆ *Begin the study with prayer;*
 - ◆ *Be punctual. If you're constantly late, students will arrive late too, and soon the study group will disband.*

General principles

The ideal number of people for a Bible study is six to ten.

This number allows everyone to participate.

Take time to establish a friendly spirit before starting the Bible study.

Make sure everyone has been introduced and is comfortable.

General principles

It's best to sit in a circle. This allows everyone to feel comfortable and participate.

Be understanding and tolerant of those attending the study.

Be careful and use common sense when expressing yourself.

Teaching methods

- ◆ For successful study, use the following teaching methods:
 - ◆ *The best teaching method is question and answer. The best questions include words like how, when, where, what, who and why.*
 - ◆ *Speak slowly and clearly, but don't preach. A Bible study is not a sermon, it's teaching. Encourage discussion.*

Teaching methods

Review the main points of the subject. Read the biblical texts clearly. If students don't read clearly, repeat the text, underlining the most important words.

Don't rush through the Bible study; make each point clear before moving on to the next.

Teaching methods

Encourage students to participate in the study by having them read Bible texts and ask questions.

Always praise good answers, even if they're not quite right. Give the student credit for trying.

Teaching methods

- ♦ *After the students have given their answers, you can say, “ Does anyone have a different answer?” This helps clarify any questions.*
- ♦ *Always listen and ask further questions, rather than simply giving direct answers. It’s the inductive method that helps people understand.*

Teaching methods

- ♦ *Make sure that everyone understands the subject being studied. People learn at different speeds and in different ways, so be patient.*
- ♦ *Keep your comments brief and to the point throughout the study.*
- ♦ *Never present ideas for which Bible student doesn't have enough background.*

Teaching methods

- ◆ Use illustrations as part of the study. Illustrations are like windows that let in fresh air.
- ◆ Illustrations emphasize the point being studied. They create deeper, more lasting impressions in the heart and mind.

Teaching methods

- ◆ Illustrations should be short and to the point.
- ◆ Humorous illustrations are acceptable if they really illustrate a point, but avoid comic illustrations and jokes that teach nothing.

What not to do?

- ◆ Don't preach. Don't preach, don't lecture, don't yell at students, don't get upset. If a student does any of these things, find a way to calm them down and get on with the study. If you find yourself in a really difficult situation, it's best to say something like: "We don't seem very inclined to study right now, so why don't we stop, pray, let the Spirit speak to us, and continue next week. "

What not to do?

- ◆ Don't get sidetracked into studying something other than your chosen subject. Questions about future topics almost always arise. When this happens, simply say, " We'll study this topic in the future, so why not wait until then and we can find a satisfactory answer to the question. "

What not to do?

- ◆ « I don't know. » Don't be embarrassed by questions you can't answer. Tell students you'll study the question and report back with an answer.

What not to do?

- ◆ Don't provide too much information in a single Bible study. The human mind can only absorb one or two points of principle at a time, and these need to be presented three or four times until they are fully understood.

What not to do?

- ◆ Never debate. If a controversial point comes up, say, “ This is an interesting point to consider, although we can’t agree on an answer now. Perhaps after studying a little more, we’ll agree on some points. “

What not to do?

- ◆ Don't criticize or speak disrespectfully of other people and religions. The purpose of a Bible study is to teach what the Bible says and let people draw their own conclusions.

What not to do?

- ◆ Stop! After the Bible study, stay just long enough to greet people and wish them well. There's a time for social visits, but it's best to leave just after concluding the study. Staying too long disrupts the household routine and people feel obliged to serve a meal. This can cause problems and should be avoided. If the study is held in a public place, finish on time so that people can go home. If the study is too long and people arrive home late, they will stop coming.

What not to do?

- ◆ Theological discussions. Don't get into theological discussions after the study. If you don't stick to a systematic presentation of topic, people will start giving personal opinions instead of seeking biblical truth. This can lead to misunderstanding, inconclusive bits of information and other difficulties.