

HOW TO START A BIBLE STUDY

There are many ways to lead a Bible study, and many levels of study from casual/conversational to serious/academic. Fortunately, you don't have to be a scholar to understand what the Bible's authors intended to convey—there are resources available that make meaningful review and discussion of Biblical truth accessible to anyone. The following how-to was prepared by Cassandra Kemp, RN.

PREPARING TO LAUNCH YOUR STUDY

- Determine topic of study (gather feedback on this if possible to garner interest)
- Identify potential meeting dates and space
- Secure meeting space
- Promote study (topic and high-level overview) and announce date and sign-up window
- Have a process for capturing names of those interested in participating (simple Excel will do)
- Continue to promote study until sign-up window is closed
- Send an introductory email to participants to generate excitement and begin promoting a sense of community with reminders of dates/time/logistics
- Create an agenda/schedule so participants are aware of what each session will cover
- Consider a simple lined page for participants to take notes

LAUNCHING YOUR STUDY

- Consider the following for **each** session:
 - Opening ice-breaker question to promote community and ties into the lesson
 - If possible, have at least 4 attendees per table
 - Provide a re-cap of last session
 - Highlight 3-5 key concepts/thoughts related to current session
 - Build in discussion to promote community
 - Ask participants what impacted them most (either from the last session or in preparing to participate in the current session)
 - If studying a book of the Bible or chapter, identify key themes with life application (**see free resource below**)
 - Use Bible concordance, Biblegateway.com or even Google to look up scriptures related to that theme/topic
 - Introduce the topic/theme and ask group where they “are” related to the theme/topic (i.e. Anxiety)
 - During the study, have participants volunteer to read the key scriptures you've identified and discuss (examples below):
 - *How does this apply to a situation in your practice/personal life?*
 - *What do you find comforting about this?*
 - *What do you find challenging about this?*
 - *Can you share a story/situation related to this?*
 - Ask the group to share their take-aways
 - Close by asking for any prayer requests/praise reports for answered prayer
 - Remind the group of what to read to prepare for the next study

FREE resource: ***The Very Best Book – a short, practical guide to understanding your Bible***
Download at <https://lisawhittle.com/free-resources/>