

brought you to that conclusion?” or “What part of the passage made you think that?”

- 13.6 Acknowledge all contributions to the discussion. Each person needs to know that they are valued and that their input is important to the group.
- 13.7 If there has been a lot of discussion, or if there has been any confusion you may need to briefly summarise the different points that have been made. If you find this difficult, start as simply as possible and ask the group what you left out. God will give you the words you need if you ask Him. *“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. Matthew 7 v 7*

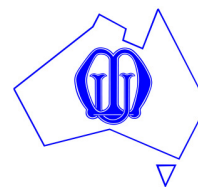
14 APPLICATIONS

- 14.1 Don’t allow the study to become simply a comprehension exercise. God’s word is living and active and He intends us to use it as we live our daily lives. Encourage the group members to apply the principles you are learning. **Be practical.**
- 14.2 Ask “How can we do this today?” , “What does God want us to do and how will we do it?”
It’s easy to say “God wants me to love others” but much harder and more demanding to work out specific ways that I can show God’s love to those around me.
- 14.3 Ask “How?” and “What?” and “Where?” and “When?” and encourage others to get into the habit of seeing how they can bring God’s commands into their everyday lives

15 CLOSE ON TIME WITH PRAYER

When you’ve finished the study close by thanking God for the lessons He has taught you and the way He has shown more of Himself to you. Ask Him to help you put into practise what you have learnt.

If you want to ask someone else to close in prayer, make sure you have asked them in advance.



Guidelines for LEADING A BIBLE STUDY AT AN MU MEETING

Prepared by Wendy Mayer

THE LEADER

A Bible Study is a particular form of meeting and, as with any meeting, the way it proceeds depends largely on the person leading it. This can be a bit overwhelming if you are new to leading Bible Studies, but some careful planning will make your job much easier.

Remember as a Bible Study leader you have a great advantage. You don’t have to depend on your own resources, you have all of God’s resources to draw on. It is the Holy Spirit who will help your group learn. You are His assistant, He is not yours, so let Him carry the pressure - He is more than capable of handling it!

BEFORE THE STUDY

1. **Pray** asking God to help you in your planning and in your own understanding of His word.
2. **Read** the entire study yourself and either note down, underline or count the number of references that will need to be looked up.
3. If references are in “difficult to find” books or there are a lot of references to look up, it might be helpful produce a sheet with the passages printed out.
www.biblegateway.com is an easy way to do this. Select the passage and the Bible translation you want to use, then print it out or copy that passage into a *Word* document and add the other passages into that one document and print it out.
4. It is generally wise to line up people in advance to read the Bible passages on the day. This gives them an opportunity to practise beforehand if they wish.

5. Try to distribute the written Bible Study material, including the questions, ahead of time. One to two weeks ahead gives enough preparation time, without being so early the study is forgotten.
6. Ask the people to read the questions and think about their answers before they come. Suggest that they write down their answers, as this helps them remember what they thought about the questions. It also helps the leader, as she has a variety of people to ask for their views.

ON THE DAY

7. Although you have already handed out the material before the day of the meeting, try and have extra copies of the material available on the day. This caters for additional people coming. It also covers anyone who has forgotten to bring their own copy. With the MU Studies, you can photocopy as many sheets as you wish. Commercial studies have copywrite restrictions.
8. **Seating** If possible it is best to seat everyone in a circle, so each person can see all other members of the group. Talking to people's backs, or twisting around in seats makes discussion difficult.
9. **Opening in Prayer** Not everyone is comfortable praying aloud, so it is wise to open in prayer yourself. Use a short prayer asking God to help you all understand, learn from, and apply His word to your lives.
If you want to ask someone else to do this, make sure you have asked them before the meeting. Don't put anyone on the spot.
10. **The Study** The leader should read any introductory material out aloud and then read through the questions, one at a time, allowing time for people to express their ideas for each question.
11. **Timing** Decide the total length of time you have available to spend on the Study. This is distinct from the time for the whole meeting which will include other things.
Count the questions and divide the length of time by the number of questions.

eg. Forty minutes, with 10 questions allows 4 minutes per question.

Of course not every question will take the same length of time to answer, but this does give a guide on the approximate time you can spend.

It can be helpful to write the time, by the clock, that you plan to finish under your last question. Then write the clock time for half way time next to the appropriate question.

eg Start 10 am Q5 10.20am Q10 10.40am

This will help you judge if you need to speed up, or if you can allow more time for discussion as you work through the study.

13. ENCOURAGING PARTICIPATION

- 13.1 **Getting started** It's easier to lead a group who have done their homework and prepared their answers in advance. So any effort you have invested before the meeting in encouraging preparation will (hopefully) repay you as you start the discussion time.
However, even when answers have been prepared, there may be silence after you read out the first question.
- 13.2 **Do not** answer the question yourself. Once you start doing that, the group will usually let you answer ALL the questions. This doesn't allow for different points of view to be expressed and the Bible discussion becomes a Bible lecture.
- 13.3 If you get no response for a particular question, try pointing the group's attention to a helpful verse from the passage and try asking the question another way.
eg. What does verse 5 say about it? or "How could we apply verse 5 to our lives today?"
- 13.4 After one person has answered a question, open it to others, when appropriate, by asking "any other ideas?" or "what else can we add?". But make sure that the question needs more input; if it has been answered satisfactorily, move on.
- 13.5 Don't reject any answers. If the answer is clearly wrong or not understandable, take them back to the Bible. Ask "Which verse