



# Leading Small Groups Bible Study Preparation Worksheet



## Quick Start Guide 4

The best way to learn can be to get some direction and then just do it. This guide will help. Ask for feedback from the group (how it helped them) and from someone more experienced (did I get it right, especially the biblical content?). Reflect on the feedback, read in more depth and do it again— and never stop learning!

### What to study?

**Pray!** Then ask yourself/the group/ someone experienced:

- Is there a programme to follow?
- Where are the group at? (not yet Christians, new to faith, mature?)
- What would be helpful? (e.g. introduce to Jesus, basics of faith, in-depth on a Bible book or subject)
- Is there a good 'off-the-shelf' book I can use or do I need to prepare it myself—if so go to the next step...

### Choose the Bible passage

**Prayerfully** choose a Bible passage. You could:

- Decide to go through a book (e.g. Mark as an introduction to Jesus or Ephesians for growth in who we are 'in Christ')
- Choose one or more short passages to see what the Bible says on a subject (be ready to choose again if the next steps show that the passage doesn't say what you thought it did)

## Understand the Bible passage first for yourself (keep praying!)

### See the big picture, then the detail

1. Read the passage to take in the big picture (zooming out). Read before and after—even the whole book.
2. How does the passage fit into the whole Bible—Genesis to Revelation? **Zoom out more** to God's plan to restore us to himself through Christ: creation; fall; promise; Jesus born; cross; resurrection; new creation.
3. Read the passage again slowly for the detail (**zoom right in**).

### Ask: who, what, when, where, why?

**Who** is speaking to who or who is doing what and **why**?

**When** and **where** did this happen? **Why** did they speak or act in that way back then in that place? (What was the world like then, what challenges did they face that are the same/different to us?)

The answer to who, when and where should show you just **what** is going on.

Now you know what is going on in the passage, ask: **why** did the Holy Spirit put this in the Bible?...

**Key question:** what is revealed in the passage about human wrong doing or the brokenness of the world that shows a need for Christ (even before he came) or how Christ meets (or will meet) that need?

(Using a study Bible (e.g. ESV study Bible or NIV Life Application Bible) can help especially with who, when and where.)

Over the page  
for the next step

## What does it mean for us today?

Remember the **key question**: what is revealed in the passage about human wrong doing or the brokenness of the world that shows a need for Christ (even before he came) or how Christ meets (or will meet) that need?

**Ask**: what do we share in common with the people in the passage that shows **our need of Christ or how Christ meets our need**? To go deep in this question consider:

- What is still exactly the same today? (e.g. we still have the same emotions: sadness, anger, joy ...)
- What is the equivalent today? (e.g. idols then were statues, idols now are less obvious but still real)
- What are different people in the group going through? Start to move beyond you to them...



## Prepare the Bible study for the group (keep praying—and pray for the group too!)

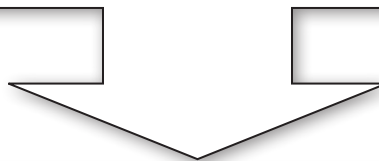
### Choose one focus

Reduce all your preparation to one focus: What is one area of our lives that we can trust Jesus to transform?  
One focus can be applied in many ways (e.g. serving: what are the different ways Christ has for us to serve?)



### Prepare the questions

1. Have a clear direction and focus moving from understanding the Bible passage to applying it.
2. Don't include any questions (no matter how interesting) that are not part of the focus.
3. Start with questions to gain understanding (to help the group understand as you have).
4. Use open ended questions – not ones which are answered with 'yes' or 'no'.
5. Ask questions to bring out what the Bible actually says not 'what it means to me'.
6. Ask questions about how what the Bible says about Jesus (or our need for Jesus) impacts on our lives (our emotions, our thoughts, our words, our actions).
7. Estimate how long the study will take (perhaps note timings beside questions so you will get to the finish!)
8. Know the answers to your own questions! The group will add their own insights and experience but it will help to prepare some responses to possible misunderstandings of the passage.



**Go and do it! (and keep praying...)**