

# **Equipping Women with God's Word**

How you prepare yourself and the study material are keys to effectively teaching the Word of God or facilitating a discussion in small group settings.

## ***1. Who Am I, LORD?***

## ***2. A Heart to know HIM***

***DESIRE:*** Think on the Word

***DISCIPLINE:*** Look into the Word

***DELIGHT:*** Enjoy the Word

## ***3. Define a teacher...***

The teacher organizes and guides the learning activities providing an opportunity for others to learn.

George MacDonald quote: “I believe that no teacher should strive to make men think as he thinks, but to lead them to the living truth, to the Master Himself, of whom alone they can learn anything, who will make in themselves know what is true by the very seeing of it.”

II Timothy 2:15

## ***4. Prepare to Lead***

### ***A. Preparing Yourself***

#### ***PRAY:***

- For God to reveal the truth: John 14:26
- For your understanding of the truth: John 16:13
- For a teachable spirit: Psalm 119:18
- For others: John 16:8, Romans 1:16, Acts 1:8

***Principle:*** James 1:5

“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.”

### ***B. Preparing Material***

- Familiarize yourself with study material
- Read the scripture
- Identify the purpose of each lesson
- Take time to answer each question
- Take time to meditate on the lesson
- Anticipate questions or differing viewpoints/doctrines
- Use other resource materials

***Principle:*** Zechariah 4:6

“... ‘Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit,’  
says the LORD Almighty.”

***C. Presenting Material***

- Opening: Welcome, Ice Breaker, Pray
  
- Introduction
  
- Using the study questions  
    Read the question  
  
    Encourage participation  
  
    Affirmation
  
- Redirect if...  
    Domination  
  
    Tangent
  
- Controversy
  
- Summarize
  
- Ending: Prayer

***Principle:*** Isaiah 55:11

“So is my word that goes out from my mouth;  
    It will not return to me empty,  
    but will accomplish what I desire  
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”

## Participant Reflections Worksheet

I need to pray about the following in order to prepare myself for leading a small group bible study:

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God's word speaks to me and inspires me through this verse:

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What are the strengths that God has equipped me with in order to lead a study:

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What are my weaknesses or fears that I need to give to the Lord to strengthen me in order to lead a study:

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What questions do I have about leading a study?

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What additional tools do I need?

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## *Looking for leaders for small groups among your classes...*

Be alert to those who...

1. Have a heart for the Word of God
2. Participate in discussions
3. Exhibit spiritual gifts lending toward discussion leaders (teaching, exhortation)
4. Seem to have a passion for
5. Are good listeners
6. Have a testimony of faith in Jesus
7. Are teachable themselves
8. Are faithful in coming to class

Get to know these women and begin mentoring them: ask them to be your assistant, come alongside of them personally and spiritually.

## **Resources for Bible Study**

### **Books**

*Women's Ministry Handbook*: Includes helps for local women's groups or individuals. Written by Women of the CLB with supplemental material, it uses a 3-ring binder format, to enable groups to add updated material. It is available to all CLB women's groups, and other interested individuals. Available on line at [www.WMCLB.com](http://www.WMCLB.com) or from district or national officers.

*How To Study Your Bible* by Kay Arthur (Harvest House Publishers, 1994): a dynamic guide to cultivate step-by-step Bible study skills for inductive study.

*Halley's Bible Handbook*: Glean insights into Scripture. Find information about archaeological discoveries, church history and other information related to the Bible.

*Unger's Bible Dictionary*: A reference book which gives backgrounds, customs, and geography of Bible lands and meaning of words in Scripture. It includes a generous amount of doctrinal explanation, as well.

*Strong's Exhaustive Bible Concordance of the Bible: A concordance giving word roots from Hebrew and Greek, as well as definitions. It also gives other passages in Scripture using the same word.*

*You Can Start a Bible Study Group* by Gladys Hunt (Harold Shaw, 1982)

*Basic Training for Small Group Ministry in Your Church* by Lyman Coleman –  
(Video training series by Serendipity House. 1995)

*How to Lead Small Groups* by Neal McBride (NavPress, 1990)

### **Internet sites:**

[www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com): Enter a reference or keyword to view Bible passages in more than 18 English translations, or link to commentaries, dictionaries, and other Bible resources.

[www.crosswalk.com](http://www.crosswalk.com): Access a variety of Bible translation and other study tools.

[www.discipleshipjournal.com](http://www.discipleshipjournal.com): Search the archives for articles related to your lesson. Clinton E. Arnold's article "Byte-by Byte Bible study" (Issue 138) lists a number of helpful websites and software packages.

[www.rose-publishing.com](http://www.rose-publishing.com): Bible charts, maps, timelines, and power points for teachers, pastors, or students.

[www.e-Sword.net](http://www.e-Sword.net): e-Sword is a fast and effective way to study the Bible. E-Sword is feature rich and user friendly with more capabilities than you would expect in a free software package.

[www.wmclb.com](http://www.wmclb.com): Look for **Resource Lending Library** under Resources: An opportunity to borrow or lend resources among our churches. There is a list of available resources right on-line and an email address to contact the coordinator.

[www.elizabethgeorge.com](http://www.elizabethgeorge.com): On home page, scroll down under features and download "How to Study Your Bible" and "Leading a Bible Study."

# *Suggested Studies for Spiritual Growth in Small Groups*

Material for your small group can be found or ordered through Faith and Fellowship Press (ffbooks@clba.org) or your local bookstores. Another resource for choosing and ordering study material is Christian Book Distributors (christianbook.com).

The following list covers many suggestions for group study according to the women's levels of spiritual growth or interests or needs:

## **Interest or Seeker Studies:**

For women beginning to seek spiritual things use a video series like:

*Bringing up Boys* by Dr. Dobson

*Extraordinary Women* by The Center for Biblical Counseling

*Keys to Loving Relationships* by Gary Smalley

*Boundaries* by Cloud and Townsend

For women seeking a study guide use:

Serendipity House material (topical)

For women seeking fellowship use a topic like:

Craft class

Scrap booking –

*Scripture Scrapbook Bible Studies* by Group Publishing

Quilting

Exercise

These groups should have a spiritual emphasis in some way whether it is the craft itself or the discussion while doing it.

## **Basic Studies:**

For Christians or non-Christians use studies from the following:

Navigators - Design for Discipleship Series

Inter-Varsity Press - Christian Basics Bible Study

Fisherman Bible Studies – Core Studies

New Community Bible Study Guides (Willow Creek Association)

## **Growing in Christ Studies:**

For women seeking spiritual growth use a study from the following:

Topical study books by

Cynthia Heald - *Becoming a Woman* Series

Elizabeth George – *A Woman After God's Own Heart* Series

Stormie Omartian – *The Power of a Praying Wife/Parent*  
Collection

Donna Partow – *Becoming the Woman I Want to Be*

Robert S. McGee – *The Search for Significance*

Topical studies that will meet identified needs such as prayer, marriage, stages of a woman's life, spiritual gifts, or grief

Fisherman Bible Studies – Topical, Bible Book or Character Studies

Books with a study guide written by authors such as:

Max Lucado

John McArthur

Charles Stanley

John Eldredge

Philip Yancey

Charles Swindoll

Kay Arthur's *40 –Minute Bible Studies*

Video Curriculum - *Becoming a Contagious Christian*

### **Digging Deeper:**

For women who want to take time through in-depth study to glean the truths of God's Word for themselves.

Use studies by

Kay Arthur

*Lord Series*

*Precept Series*

Beth Moore

*Breaking Free*

*Jesus, The One and Only*

Use studies by Navigator

*Life Change Series*

Inter-Varsity Press - *Life Guide Series*

Fisherman Bible Studies

## **Small Group Bible Study Facilitator Tips**

### ▪ **Co – Facilitation**

- Co-teach
- Leader and assistant with designated responsibilities
- Take turns
- Helps with dynamics during class time
- Prayer and Care for each other
- Iron Sharpens Iron: Proverbs 27:17

### ▪ **Connecting...**

#### **Through Prayer**

- Before class
- During
- Request

#### **Through Building a Group Relationship**

Icebreakers, life verse, identity,  
Come up with a name for your group

#### **Through Keeping In Touch**

Email, note card communication - from leader or assistant  
Buddy system – participant support; “2 by 2” they came

### ▪ **Guidelines...**

#### **Hour**

Define start and ending times

#### **HOPES** – guidelines / ground rules

- **H** – honor and respect
- **O** – openness
- **P** – participation
- **E** – experiences / experimentation
- **S** – sensitivity, safe, Spirit-filled

#### **Handling topics of doctrine or controversial subjects**

- Present all view points
- If not equipped that week, postpone discussion until prepared.
- Use other resources to establish, verify viewpoints (pastor, elder)
- Request another qualified person to present specific viewpoint.
- Presentation will be biblically centered.
- Encourage women to find out what they believe based on the Bible

Questions can be handled one on one, after class, not in group

## Who am I???

You may say, “There are many reasons why God shouldn’t use me...” You’re right! But don’t worry. You’re in good company.

Moses stuttered.

David’s armor didn’t fit.

John Mark was rejected by Paul.

Timothy had ulcers.

Hosea’s wife was a prostitute.

Amos’ only training was in the school of fig tree pruning.

Jacob was a liar.

David had an affair.

Solomon was too rich.

Jesus was too poor.

Abraham was too old.

David was too young.

Peter was afraid of death.

Lazarus was dead.

John was self-righteous.

Naomi was a widow.

Paul was a murderer...so was Moses.

Jonah ran from God.

Miriam was a gossip.

Gideon and Thomas both doubted.

Jeremiah was depressed and suicidal.

Elijah was burned out.

John the Baptist was a loudmouth.

Martha was a worry-wart.

Mary was lazy.

Samson had long hair.

Noah got drunk.

Did I mention that Moses had a short fuse?

So did Peter, Paul---well, lots of folks did.

But God doesn’t require a job interview. He doesn’t look at financial gain or loss. He’s not prejudiced or partial; not judging or grudging, sassy or brassy; not deaf to our cry, not blind to our need. As much as we try, God’s gifts are free. If you are magically in love with Him; if you hunger for Him more than your next breath., he’ll use you in spite of who you are, where you’ve bee, or what you look like. I pray that we will step out of our limitations into the unlimitable nature of who God is. Then our passion for God and our passion to communicate Him will make mincemeat of our limitations.

(Source unknown)