

## GROUP BIBLE STUDY - GBS

### 1.0 Biblical Basis:

1. Joshua 1:8 - God says that we must know His word and how and why we should study and what results we can expect

- a. Perpetuate
- b. Prosper
- c. Prepare
- d. Possess
- e. Practice

2. Acts. 17:11

### 2.0 GBS is...

a group discussion where there is Co-operative thinking and exchange of views all based on facts discovered from the Bible.

### 3.0 Advantages of GBS:

- Personal investigation is encouraged
- Passage is led to speak of itself
- Participants minds are fully involved
- Preaching of Holy Spirit through individuals
- Prejudices and misunderstandings are checked
- Personal faith is reinforced and challenged
- Purity in heart as a result of honest sharing
- Precise communication
- Person to person relationship grows
- Professionals are not needed
- Prospective leaders grow
- Progress in fellowship and dynamism of group

### 4.0 Preparation - Personal (Self):

#### 4.1 Prayer:

1. Time spent in prayer is not time wasted. It is essential
2. Pray for yourself - to understand and to apply
3. Pray for the members of the group
4. Pray for the working of Holy Spirit
5. Pray for definite and specific results - goals / objectives

#### 4.2 Personal Study:

- GBS is essentially a PBS magnified
- Good Bible discussions rarely happen by accident. They are the result of careful preparation.
- Follow Inductive Bible Study method.

*Observation* ..... *What does the Bible Say?*

*Interpretation* ..... *What does the Bible mean?*

*Application* ..... *What does the Bible mean to me?*

### 4.3 Purpose of the Study:

- If you aim at nothing, you'll hit it every time
- A good study should have a clearly defined purpose
- Form a statement of purpose for the study based on the primary focus of the passage
- Decide the purpose before writing your study so that the questions will reflect that purpose.

## 5.0 Preparation - Posers (Questions)

### 5.1 Purpose of Questions:

1. Questions should be designed to get maximum information at a minimum time
2. Questions are the leaders best tools to stimulate others to examine the facts of the text & to discover its significance and application.
3. Co-operative thinking - Mind involves  
Exchange of views - Mouth involves  
Questions alone can make both of them to involve
4. Questions should be
  - \* *Keys to unlock the mysteries* (Observation)
  - \* *Lamps to understand the truth* (Interpretation)
  - \* *Guide posts to practice the truth* (Application)

### 5.2 Types of Questions:

#### 5.2.1 Observation Questions (Eye questions to discuss)

1. Observation is finding the facts and their implications in the text. It is also noticing things which need explanation
2. Should help a person to gain knowledge from the passage
3. Should be able to answer by one thoughtful reading itself
4. Should take the group into the teaching or events
5. Should help one to reconstruct the narrative or discourse in his own words
6. Can make use of 7 FFQs - who, where, what, when, why, how & so what.
7. Avoid too many silly questions

#### 5.2.2 Interpretation Questions (Mind questions to discuss)

1. Interpretation is finding the significance of the facts & their implications, explaining or the meaning of the facts
2. Meaning, significance, explanation - goals of interpretation
3. Should help to understand what the biblical facts mean
4. Should promote meaningful discussion
5. Should not be too abrupt or pointed
6. Avoid speculative questions e.g. Why did Jesus send the demons into pigs?
7. Avoid asking opinions on controversial doctrines.

#### 5.2.3 Application Questions (Heart questions to decide / direct)

1. Application is acting on the conclusions. It is personally responding to the message of the text
2. Should help a person in applying his understanding to every day
3. Should lead to actual implementation of what is learnt
4. Should yield answers that are achievable goals within a specific period of time.

### 6.0 Preparation - Place:

- Adequate ventilation
- Proper lighting
- Minimum distraction
- Same eye level
- Extra Bibles for new comers

### 7.0 Leading Group Bible Study:

#### 7.1 Warm-up Period:

time where people can mingle & talk with each other catching upon the past week, sharing answers to prayer or how they attempted to follow through on specific applications during the week. A Short time of worship will be enjoyable.

#### 7.2 Study Period:

- Make any one to read aloud
- Silent reading
- Questions with space can be provided

#### 7.3 Discussion Period:

##### 7.3.1 Tools:

Best tools - good questions and good ears.

##### 7.3.2 TIPS (Principles of good leadership):

- Respect the authority of the Bible
- Be kind and open toward people with a relaxed attitude
- Stick to the passage being studied
- Avoid answering your own questions
- Don't be afraid of silence
- Don't be content with just one answer
- Listen attentively - acknowledge their contribution
- Be enthusiastic - Enthusiasm is contagious
- Admit your own ignorance, faults or inability
- Periodically summarize
- Be punctual - in starting, in dividing and in closing

##### 7.3.3 Tensions:

**Derailer:-** whose comments lead the group off the track. Remind the topic. Assure that it can be discussed later.

**Monopolizer:-** who does most of the talking, preventing others. Address the question to others. Announce the limitation of time.

**Timid Person:-** who feels comfortable when he isn't sharing. Ask a simple questions. Ask him by name. Appreciate him.

**IMPORTANT:**

%%% An alert Bible study leader watches %%%  
*How the content is being covered?*  
*What is happening to the people?*

**8.0 After GBS:**

- Praise God for His mighty work using you
  - Spend sometime with new comers
  - Acknowledge the ideal participants
  - Discuss with those who may need more help
  - Troublemakers may be counselled
  - Get the feedback
  - Evaluate with keen leaders
  - Pray, plan and prepare for the next GBS.
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