

Small Group Facilitators

Opening Prayer- Luke 13:10-17

Why study the Scripture?

“All Scripture is inspired of God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, correction, and training in holiness so that the man of God may be fully competent and equipped for every good work” Timothy 3:16-17.

- 1. The Bible is the inspired Word of God for all, written at one time for all time.**
- 2. There are depths to the Bible you can't see at first glance.**
- 3. The Bible is eternally new.**
- 4. I don't know what life was like when the Bible was written and the Church says I need to know:
A. what the author meant.
B. what life was like in Biblical days.
C. who were these people who encountered God?
D. what does this passage mean today?**
- 5. You can only learn all this in Bible studies, books etc.**
- 6. What archeologists, Bible scholars, etc. learn today will change the Bible interpretations etc. for tomorrow.**
- 7. You can only learn the Bible at the intellectual, spiritual level you are on today. Where you are tomorrow (in a new place) you will see the Bible differently.**
- 8. The Epistle of James is called the Epistle of Christian Morality. It teaches us how to live as moral Christians day by day today.**

The facilitator of a Scripture Study is like the conductor of an orchestra. You bring out the talents, contributions, gifts and wisdom of all in the group. Keep the orchestra focused and on target. Do not let one instrument out play the others.

Qualities of Facilitators taken from James

- 1. Be doers of the word and not hearers only.**
- 2. You will be blessed in the doing.**
- 3. Show no partiality.**
- 4. Love your neighbor as yourself, then you do well.**
- 5. Mercy triumphs over judgment.**
- 6. Be a friend of God.**
- 7. We all make many mistakes.**

8. **Facilitators are servants of Jesus Christ. “If any of you lacks wisdom (on being a facilitator) ask God, who gives to all generously.” Pray to be a good facilitator.**
9. **“Ask in faith, with no doubting.” Know that God qualifies the facilitator. God called you to be here today.**
10. **Let everyone be quick to hear and slow to speak.**
11. **The implanted word is able to save your souls.**
12. **Faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.**

Small group questions

1. **Give your name and parish and an experience of God you have had (in the family, parish, nature, Bible Study etc.)**
2. **How long have you studied Scripture? What books or studies have you used?**
3. **What questions do you have about being a Small Group Facilitator? Make a list as a group.**

Frequently asked Questions:

How large should a group be?
6-10 people. Diversity is a blessing.

How long is a study?

**You can adjust this to your schedule- 6-8 or more weeks.
You can meet in the day, afternoon, or evening, 1 1/2 or 2 hours.**

Environment

**Meet in a quiet place in a home or parish without distractions.
Have a focal point: a Bible and a candle, etc. The answers in this book have the Imprimatur. There are right and wrong answers except when it asks for your own opinion or experience.**

Please give everyone the chance to answer each week. Some may be shy. Respect their silence. They may be getting more just by listening, but try to get all to respond each week. It is easy to say as a facilitator, “When you answer a question, please allow time for everyone to answer before you give a second answer.”

Personnel needed

Prayerful Catholics who can be:

A coordinator for each parish who finds the room(s), leads prayer, makes announcements.

Small Group Leaders- 1 or 2 to each small group.

Music ministry- if no leader, just use books and familiar hymns.

Registration- ongoing even after sessions begin. Never refuse the Bible to any one! Pre registration, registration on nights or days, maker of name tags one who assigns each person to a group prayerfully.

A typical session

Begin and end on time.

Begin with prayer and song if possible. Take up to 10 minutes.

Read the first Scripture passage prayerfully.

If you like, you may have silence here to have the people answer the questions in today's section. This is for those who do not want to do homework.

If the group chooses to do the questions, answer them with everyone sharing. Allow no one to answer a question unless they have written the answer. This keeps people from rambling or dominating the group.

Stay on topic. Papal infallibility is not a topic in James.

If you like to read the commentary, share the reading.

Proceed at your own pace.

Pray for the needs of each person in the group.

Close with a prayer and song.

Refreshments may follow if the group chooses.

Expectations

You will acquire a deeper understanding of Scripture.

You will make Jesus decisions more easily everyday in more and more matters.

You will develop a richer understanding of all Scripture the more you study it.

Your Sunday and daily Masses will be enriched.

You will live your faith more each day.

Give out evaluations if you like. A sample is given.

Invite your group to attend follow up session if they wish. Give the number to Laverne Bertin so she knows how many there are.

Follow up Session

If there is interest, Dr Worland is willing to come back and answer questions and learn from your experience.

In there is a follow up session bring your questions or give them to Laverne early so Dr Worland can prepare answers for them.

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Please feel free to call me at any time. If I don't get right back, I'll try to get to you as soon as possible.