

M:28 Bible Study—Facilitator Guide

Connect

- What are you thankful for this week?
- What difficulties have you experienced this week?
- How did you experience God working in your life this week?
- How did you apply what you discovered last week and what was the result?
- With whom did you share what you learned last week and what was their response?

Discover

Read: Have participants take turns reading portions of the Bible passage.

Clarify: Ask participants if there are any words they don't understand.

Hear: Have one person read the entire passage out loud while the rest of the group closes their Bibles and listens.

Retell: Have a member of the group retell the passage in their own words. (Bible open)

Ask the group: (Allow people to say "pass" if they so desire.)

- Would anyone add or change any of the retelling?
- What does this passage say about God and/or people?
- What does this passage mean?
- What do you like or find significant about this passage?
- What did you not like or find hard to understand in the passage?
- What other questions do you have about this passage?

Respond

- If this passage is true, how does it change the way you see God and people?
- If this passage is true, how should it change the way you live?
- If this passage is true, what will you do differently this week?
- With whom can you share what you've learned this coming week?
- Do you know someone who has a need, and how can we help?

Close

Ask a volunteer to close the group in prayer.

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M:28 Bible Study Guidelines

Group Guidelines

1. Everyone shares in **sentences**, (in other words: no one person takes too much time).
2. Focus only on what **this passage** is saying (not other passages).
3. Focus only on what **this group** is seeing (not other people's perspective or outside sources).
4. Give people **time** to respond (don't be afraid of silence but allow people to "pass" if they so desire).

Facilitator Guidelines

5. **Facilitate**, don't teach (using the Facilitator Guide).
6. **Keep the session on schedule—Complete all sections.** (Note: This will be the hardest part. You may need to shorten the passage selection or have fewer people share.) We suggest 25% of your time for Connect, 50% for Discover, and 25% for Apply. **Most important** is the "Respond" section. Encourage everyone to share.
7. **Responding to questions** —Ask, "**What in this passage helps us answer that question?**" (The goal is to help the group see that everyone can understand the Bible.) Facilitators: Don't contribute your answer/comment to every question. Let the group try to figure it out.
8. **If the question is not about the passage**, say, "**Let's discuss this further after our group time...**" If it is a genuine question, they will make time afterwards. If you don't know the answer and no one else does, say, "Let's do a separate study at another time on a passage that answers that question."
9. **Dealing with "strange" or "wrong" interpretations or distracting questions or discussions (digressions):** Ask the question, "**Where is that found in this passage?**" Ask the group if they see the same thing (builds a culture of self-correction). If the issue persists, suggest that you and the person talk about it afterwards because, "**The goal for today is to focus on what this passage has to say.**"
10. **Close the group after the second or third week.** If someone wants to bring a friend after that, help him or her start a new group with his or her friends.

Note: Many of the "Respond" questions are phrased "If this is true..." so that people who don't yet fully trust the Bible can participate in this bible study process comfortably.

Adapted from David Watson's CPM Training Resources