

15 Vital Tips
for
LEADING

Your Women's Bible Study

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Are you a small group leader? Have you considered leading a small group Bible study but simply aren't sure where to start? Follow these 15 valuable tips for leading your small group as you learn and grow together, and in no time you'll be embracing the journey as a facilitator comfortably and competently.

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1 Pray

This seems like an obvious step, but how often do we jump into something due to our excitement and forget to pray for guidance and understanding? Pray for your group members even before you know them.

2 Prepare

Small group Bible study is often more meaningful and fruitful when using a trusted resource that helps you to explore the depths of Scripture and then apply what you're learning in your life and world. There are many great studies available that include videos, participant books, mobile apps and leader guides to make learning accessible to anyone!

3 Personalize

A leader guide is a great tool. Give yourself permission to customize your group experience by picking and choosing what works best. Guides tend to reduce your stress level and increase ideas for participation.

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4 Encourage Participation

Once your group begins meeting, encourage participation from everyone by engaging different learning styles through a variety of experiences such as video, discussion, and hands-on activities. Ask open ended questions while remaining sensitive and open to those who may not wish to share. Invite others to lead, host, pray, etc.

5 Slow Down

Effective small group leaders offer space for others to talk and teach as much (if not more) than they do themselves. If you catch yourself talking more than listening, slow down. Find ways to engage your group and encourage sharing.

6 Be Flexible

Planning is important, but remain flexible enough to meet the needs of your group if a sensitive topic or prayer request arises. Give the concerns of your group the time they deserve without letting them take you too far off course. You may get off topic for a bit, but you don't want to get too far off course.

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7 Make Space

Offer space during your time together. Start and end your sessions with silence for reflection. Women are often busy and may arrive distracted or overwhelmed. Encourage reflection with silence or appropriate music to open and close your time together.

8 Try Break Outs

If your small group ends up being not so small (more than 10-12 women), consider breakouts after the introduction or video for your current week's lesson. This allows more women the opportunity to share in a small group setting.

9 Pray Together

At the conclusion of each group session, share prayer requests and pray together. Encourage group members to write down the requests so they may pray for them during the week or send prayer requests out by email.

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10 Get Personal

Encourage the women in your small group to get to know one other more personally. Recognize that women are different and may not share on the same levels. Always remind them that what is shared during your time together is confidential and is not to be shared outside the group without their permission.

11 Stay Connected

Check in with one another during the week with simple text messages or phone calls. Successful small groups are about more than knowledge; they are connectional.

12 Serve together

A small group meshes and connects not only by learning and fellowshiping but also by serving together. When you serve others, your connection is accelerated. And what better way to put into action all that you are learning than to serve others.

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13 Schedule

Schedule your next study before completing your current one. Women are busy, and schedules have a way of filling up if there is not an ongoing plan for Bible study.

14 Capture It

Take pictures of your group together. Post them in your church and community, online (if everyone agrees), and share them in promotions and invitations for your next study. Letting other women see that Bible study is fun and rewarding encourages others to join you on the discipleship journey.

15 Savor Together

Fellowship is a vital part of a small group, and savoring the lessons you learn together is important. As a conclusion to your study, consider having a meal together or gathering for a time of fellowship, especially if your church or community has multiple Bible studies. Breaking bread together is a great way to savor, celebrate, and invite others to join you for your next small group study.

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Your word is a lamp before my feet
and a light for my journey.

– Psalm 119:105 CEB

Small groups have different needs. This list is intended to help you gain confidence as a leader. Find what helps you and your small group to grow in discipleship together. Need tips for launching your women's Bible study group or ministry? Be sure to download the 15 Vital Tips for Launching a Small Group Bible Study at www.abingdonwomen.com.

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Be Flexible Make Space Try Break Outs

Pray
Together Get Personal Savor
Together

Capture It Schedule Serve Together

STAY CONNECTED