

What Does the Bible Require of Me? - Facilitator Guide

Expectations

- The Bible will be our primary source for reading, study and reflection.
- We will take this study seriously. We pledge to do each daily reading and reflection, and to faithfully attend and participate in each weekly meeting.
- We will support the facilitator by actively taking part in the discussion and not depending on the facilitator to carry the discussion.
- We will share the discussion with other group members and not dominate it.
- We will encourage and support one another.
- We will enjoy getting to know one another better and sharing our life stories.
- We will accept that we may from time to time have different understandings of what we read and will avoid judging one another based on these differences.

The group meal is an important part of the weekly gathering. It is scheduled for thirty minutes. Because it is a significant opportunity for social connection, participants have a tendency to linger over the table longer than the allotted time. Facilitators must gently move the participants on to the next phase, the Bible study.

Ideally, the groups should gather around a table, so that they will have a place for their Bibles, course booklets, handouts, and their Books of Common Prayer.

The best group size is 6-10 participants. This allows everyone an opportunity to participate during the hour.

Where available, the groups should have an Internet TV monitor with a remote for showing videos or other materials.

Opening Group Prayer - Verses from the Book of Psalms are used as the opening prayer. They should be said together by the group. (2 minutes)

Material Review - The facilitator performs a brief high-level review of the background material and readings. This should take no more than five minutes. (5 minutes)

Questions to Consider - Approximately twenty minutes is allocated for the initial discussion of the questions. Often, not all the questions will be discussed. The facilitator should select two of the questions to get the discussion started. The group members can then select additional questions. (20 minutes)

What Does This Segment Mean for Me? - Approximately twenty-five minutes is allocated for the group members to discuss what they have learned from the segment and to talk about how it has applied or may apply to their lives. This is the primary opportunity for the group to interact and share their life experiences and expectations in the context of their faith and the support the Bible provides to them. If the full twenty-five minutes are not used, the group can return to the prepared questions. (25 minutes)

Introduction to Next Segment - A brief description of the segment for the next week is provided. (2 minutes)

Song - An optional song may be used before the Closing Prayer. The songs are available on the DiscoverSMM YouTube channel in the "DiscoverSMM Likes" playlist. An Internet TV with YouTube is required.

Closing Prayer - The closing prayers, said together, are found in the Book of Common Prayer. (2-3 minutes)

First Session - The first session will last about fifteen minutes longer than the others. Be sure to say that the extra time is only for that session. This is because additional time will be required for the initial setup and for the group members to introduce themselves and state briefly what they expect from the course.

Notes - Facilitators should make notes during the sessions to capture information that can be used to improve the course in the future.