

DISCLAIMER

The following page contains a blueprint for teaching your disciple how to lead a transformative Bible study that will lead to Spiritual Multiplication. It is not a checklist to finish, or something to hand to your disciple saying, "Just do this." This blueprint will not ensure a perfect outcome, so please note the importance of perseverance when difficulties arise.

Bible studies are most fruitful when the leader is firmly rooted in Christ and His Church and is entirely reliant on the work of the Holy Spirit in fulfilling the Great Commission. Therefore:

- Do not move forward unless your disciple has demonstrated living a life of prayer and virtue consistently. (Acts 2:40)
- Do not move forward unless your disciple is actively striving to embrace and live in accordance with all the teachings of the Catholic Church. (James 5:19-20)
- Do not move forward unless you are prepared to generously give of yourself and your time to teach your disciple the vision, skills, preparation, and investment they need to learn to lead a transformative small group that fosters Spiritual Multiplication. (1 Thess 2:8; 2 Tim 2:2; John 15:13)

Bible study should always be in the context of **Scripture** as the main source of content each week. While books and videos are of value to add to a Bible Study, they are not a substitute for Sacred Scripture.

Use this guide until a disciple demonstrates he or she can train another disciple effectively.

TEACHING A DISCIPLE TO LEAD A TRANSFORMATIVE BIBLE STUDY



Vision: To lead transforming studies, you should ingrain in your disciple the three purposes of a Bible study before they start leading others to make sure all three are incorporated into their preparation and weekly execution of the study.

- **Divine Intimacy:** Hold your disciple accountable to creating weekly encounters with Jesus through Scripture so their study members are deeply transformed through the realization of who Jesus is and His desire for personal relationship in their lives.
- **Authentic Friendship:** Through engaging conversation and investment outside of Bible study, help your disciple foster and encourage virtuous living and true friendship among their study members. Model this in your relationship with your disciple.
- **Vision for Spiritual Multiplication:** Guide your disciple in sharing the gospel each week not only to connect the study to Jesus' message and mission, but also to identify and build up disciples who are ready for the next step in living out His model and method.

Skills: Leading a Bible study requires intellectual, relational, and spiritual skills. You should begin training your disciples in these skills from the moment they enter discipleship until they have confidently and consistently led a transformative Bible study.

- **Foster Hospitality:** Show how to care deeply for everyone in a small group by teaching your disciple how to extend an intentional invitation and cultivate a welcoming environment for their study. Location, environment and timeliness go a long way.
- **Facilitate an Encounter:** Help your disciple understand how to determine which Bible study to use and show them how to clearly communicate and translate one to three gospel truths each week through intentional questions.
- **Generate an Engaging Conversation:** Teach your disciple how to engage small group participants in good conversation to create the openness and attentiveness necessary to experience deep transformation.
- **Model Leadership:** Have your disciple continually attend a Bible study as a model. You must also attend your disciple's study regularly to provide feedback for where they can improve.

PLEASE NOTE: THE FOLLOWING TWO AREAS ARE WHERE THE MOST TIME AND ENERGY WILL NEED TO BE INVESTED.

Preparation: The amount of time you invest with your disciple before each study directly impacts their personal ownership and success. Be ready to spend multiple hours each week helping your disciple prepare for their study until they've demonstrated long-term mastery.

- **Instill Personal Prayer:** Keep your disciple accountable to praying with the weekly Scripture readings and interceding for Bible study members. Each week, help them learn how to best allow this personal relationship with Jesus to expand the conversation and material being discussed in the study.
- **Determine the Truths:** Assist your disciple in determining one to three truths of the gospel to highlight for the participants to best encounter the Scripture each week. These should be what your disciple believes will be most meaningful for their group.
- **Select Questions for Encounter:** Using FOCUS Bible study resources, help your disciple carefully select which questions to use and create their own questions for their group to encounter Christ in the most personal and powerful way that leads to weekly calls of action.

Investment: For full transformation and conversion of heart, relational investment in and outside of Bible study is crucial. Your disciple should spend scandalous amounts of time outside of study each week to facilitate healthy fellowship among participants.

- **Invite into Life:** Each week, hold your disciple accountable for inviting their small group participants to activities outside of Bible study so that they may enter more deeply into their lives (e.g., fellowship, prayer, sacraments). Invitations must be intentional, personal, and persistent.
- **Make Connections:** To foster Christ-centered friendships essential to a person's full conversion, support your disciple in creating opportunities to connect students with one another and help them begin to invest in each other as well.
- **Reinforce Truths:** Help your disciple learn how to use experiences and conversations outside of Bible study to reinforce truths of the gospel and help apply the knowledge gained each week to real-life situations.

Please see focusequip.org for all Bible study resources