

HELPFUL HINTS FOR LEADING THE MESSAGE-BASED STUDY

CONNECTION ~ It's important to do some sort of connection activity for relationship building and transition into study. In the first 2 weeks, allow extra time for getting to know each other especially if your group is new. See the Leader Resources page on the website for ideas. Some people may feel less connected online than in person so it is very important to do the connection at the beginning of each meeting.

CHEER & CHALLENGE ~ Your group will talk about their, "I will" statement from last week and the B.L.E.S.S. challenge. You can discuss this together as a group or have them share in partner groups.

If you find in your group that sharing prayer requests is taking up a lot of time, you can use the challenge that people share as the prayer request for them for the week.

If you find after a few times meeting that the majority of your group is not trying either or both of these, it would be beneficial to discuss why. Ask your group what is hindering them from applying what they are learning and/or focusing on the B.L.E.S.S. challenge.

CONTENT ~ Discuss the content from the week's message. As the leader, you can follow the Spirit's lead as to which questions to discuss. Take time to read the scriptures as a group. Most weeks there will be at least 3 points within the content section. It may be helpful to highlight those points as you go through your discussion time or even consider reading them at the beginning or the end of your discussion time.

COMMITMENT ~ Think about an, "I will" statement to focus on for the week. You might consider giving some time to pray silently and then ask if anyone is ready to share aloud. It is a good practice to have people write it down either in a journal or on their phone so they don't forget. You will also highlight the B.L.E.S.S challenge for the week.

CONTINUE DIGGING DEEPER ~ This section is optional and encouraged for your group. It provides opportunities to dig deeper into the theme of the message using a variety of methods. These activities provide opportunities across learning styles, personality types, stages of life, etc. to consider more deeply what we are learning together through the Sunday messages.

PRAYER ~ Be sure to add prayer to your time together as a group. As a leader you can decide what works best for your group. Be aware that some members of your group may not be comfortable praying aloud so try different methods for practicing the spiritual discipline of prayer.