



IDEA SHEET

Home Bible Study Ministry

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Helpful Tips for Home Bible Studies

- **Arrive Early.** By arriving to your designated location early, you will be better able to separate yourself from the distractions of everyday life, so that you can fully focus on the task at hand. Last-minute preparation, reviewing, and praying are all possible when you allow a few extra minutes to be alone before the Bible study begins. Arriving out-of-breath, without being prepared, to a home Bible study will leave a bad impression on your guests.
- **Greet Guests Warmly.** As your guest or guests arrive, greet each person by name. Smile, be genuine, and let them know that you are truly happy that they are there. An impersonal greeting might destroy a well-crafted, doctrinally accurate Bible study.
- **Start On Time.** Even if you only have one guest present when it's time to begin, be sure and start on time. By doing this, you will establish a precedent for those who arrive late, that you intend on respecting everyone's time by starting at the designated time.
- **Reword Confusing Statements.** Souls who are new in searching the Word of God may not be familiar with certain elements of the vocabulary that Christians sometimes use, so certain phrases that you say or questions that you ask might be confusing. Remember to be patient, and reword those points of confusion until the student understands what you are saying. This will prove to be worth the time spent once the student understands the concept.
- **Paraphrase The Student's Questions.** As much as you do not want to be misunderstood, you also do not want to misunderstand your student. When he or she has a question regarding the topic at hand, do not be afraid to paraphrase their question to ensure that you understand it. This will save you so much time by not letting the conversation get confusing or off topic.
- **End on Time.** As important as it is to begin the Bible study on time, it is essential to make sure that it ends on time as well. Respect the time of those who are in attendance, as well as your own, by ending the Bible study at a designated time.

Home Bible Study Ministry Calendar:

- **November:** Have your regular home Bible study teachers keep journals of their home Bible study experiences for the entirety of this month. At the end of the month, schedule a get-together, during which you can share your experiences, and reinforce the positive impact of journal keeping.



Remember Your Childhood. It is important to remember when conducting a home Bible study that you were once a babe in Christ. You can use this memory to create effective personal material that will aid you in performing home Bible studies. What areas of truth were you struggling with when you were first taught the gospel, and what made those areas finally come to light in your mind? Use these to structure your home Bible study formatting as you begin to encounter major questions and concerns from your students. Your childhood in Christ is one that must be remembered in order for you to be more effective in your home Bible study efforts.

Resource Files for You

HBMA05.txt
"Home Bible Study Information Form"
Keeping track of the Bible studies that are taking place in your church.

HBMA52.txt
"Principles for Effective Group Home Bible Studies"
Managing the group dynamic.

IBC Perspectives Magazine

If you are in ministry leadership, be sure not to miss out on an excellent publication written just for church leaders. The IBC Perspectives magazine is a 20-page color publication published monthly by Indiana Bible College. It features interviews with growing revival churches and explores the methods and programs that make them successful. It also features articles devoted to: Features, Opinions, Plainly Speaking, columnists, World News, Apostolic News, News You Can Use, Guest Pulpit and more. To receive a free copy and subscription form, call 1-800- 800-0247 or write Perspectives, P.O. Box 47917, Indianapolis, IN 46247, or e-mail: Perspectives@Apostolic.edu or visit our web page at www.apostolic.edu. Subscription cost is just \$20 per year for 12 issues.