

## LAMPLIGHTERS INTERNATIONAL – DISCIPLE-MAKER TIP #5 TITLE: "AVOIDING THE 'HOLY HUDDLE' SYNDROME"

During a recent Bible study, I encouraged the men in one of the men's groups to invite other guys to join us. I was surprised when they were less than enthusiastic about the idea of inviting others. They said they thought we should be a closed group – one that focused on a spiritual growth within the lives of those who were already attending.

When should a Bible study be closed and when should it be open to new people joining? Personally, I believe the only time a group should be closed is when they covenant together to deal with highly personal issues in their lives that no one else should know about. **Most of the time a Bible study should be open and enthusiastically welcome others into the group at any time.** If someone joins the group in the middle of a study, the individual will benefit from the healthy interaction of the group members and be encouraged by the sincere desire of believers to understand God's Word and His will for their lives. The new person will likely be willing to begin doing the lessons within a week or two.

As believers, we are commanded to make disciples of all nations. Don't fall prey to the "Holy Huddle," "Us Four, No More" trap.

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