

LAMPLIGHTERS INTERNATIONAL – DISCIPLE-MAKER TIP #21

TITLE: "WE'LL PICK UP NEXT WEEK ...!"

"Let's pick up next week where we left off", the inexperienced leader said as he brought the group discussion to a close. Although the lesson wasn't completed (again), he was confident that the class had gone well - the discussion was healthy and only one guy, Joe, was absent. The leader rationalized that not finishing the lesson wasn't a problem as long as the group members really got "into the lesson."

Meanwhile, Joe, away on a business trip, smiled as he thought about the guys meeting and his growing bond with the other men. With a couple hours free before his next appointment, he even contemplated doing next week's lesson. Then he remembered the last time he came to class after missing a week only to realize the group hadn't finished the previous week's lesson. No, this time he would pass on doing the lesson and just come to next week's meeting with his lesson incomplete.

Where did the leader fail in one of the keys to an effective, life-changing discipleship Bible Study? By not faithfully completing the weekly lesson every time, the leader discourages the group members (especially those who are absent) from completing their weekly lessons. How does an effective Bible Study leader avoid this leadership pitfall?

1. At the beginning of each study, the group members should take a couple minutes to write the specific dates that the group will be meeting and the specific lessons they will be discussing. The group members should evaluate their calendars to see if there are any holiday weeks that may affect their meeting schedule.
2. **The leader should encourage the group members to do their lessons every week - even if they are away for business or pleasure.**
3. The leader should commit to the group that he will lead the group effectively by completing the weekly lesson every week – no exceptions.