

## LAMPLIGHTERS INTERNATIONAL – DISCIPLE-MAKER TIP #23

### TITLE: "HOW TO DEAL WITH PERSONAL QUESTIONS"

Some Bible Study leaders feel awkward when they present the personal questions in the lessons? Do you skip over them so no one offers personal information about themselves that they will later regret? Or, do you read the question and wait for several seconds of awkward silence until someone nervously says, *"I'm guilty of this."*

The personal questions aren't designed to squeeze a grudging confession out of the group members. The "How to lead a Lamplighters Bible Study" tutorial at the beginning of the Bible study books says, *"Occasionally, some of the study questions require introspection and a personal response. Answer these questions for your benefit; they help you compare your present spiritual maturity to the biblical principles presented in the lesson. If you're part of a study group, you will not be asked to share any personal answers or information with the group."*

So how do you help the group members apply the biblical truths taught in the Lamplighters' lesson to their personal lives without embarrassing anyone or hurrying past, avoiding the question, and missing a poignant spiritual application?

1. In your pre-class preparation, decide in advance how you are going to handle the personal question(s).
2. During the group meeting, remind the students how important these questions are and encourage them to do their best to answer them.
3. When you come to a personal question, consider saying something like this. *"When I got to this question, I was tempted to skip it and go onto the next question. But I really want my study of God's Word to impact my life so I thought about it for awhile."*
4. You could also invite the group members to join you in a time (15-30 seconds) of silent prayer and ask God to reveal areas that need to change – areas of our lives that need to be brought into alignment with His Word. Tell the group that you will close in prayer. Then simply move onto the next question.

Don't forfeit these great opportunities to help the group members apply God's Word to their lives. Remember, it is not about biblical information. It's about spiritual transformation into the image of Jesus Christ. Help them, by your effective leadership, to understand that.