

LAMPLIGHTERS INTERNATIONAL – DISCIPLE-MAKER TIP #24

TITLE: "KEEPING THE BIBLE STUDY ON TRACK"

Many Christians are fearful of starting a discipleship Bible Study because they think someone may ask them a Bible question they can't answer. Worse yet, they think some group members may have a secret spiritual agenda and cause division within the group. If you are considering becoming a discipleship Bible Study leader you don't need to worry about this. Here's how to handle it.

Remember the "59, 59" rule - meaning the Bible Study meets to study for 59 minutes and 59 seconds (really one hour). The group starts on time and finishes on time. Well, there is more to the "59, 59" rule than just rigorous time management. The rule was designed to keep the Bible Study on course and it provides lay Bible Study leaders with an excellent tool to avoid spiritual rabbit trails. The Bible Study Leader establishes the "59, 59" rule at the beginning of the study and then implements it during the first few weeks of the Bible Study. The "59, 59" rule keeps the Bible Study discussion group on track and gives the leader a simple (but extremely effective) means of avoiding potentially destructive side tracks. If the leader perceives the group discussion is going off base, he simply informs the group they need to move onto the next question. It works wonderfully.

So, don't be afraid to step out and start a Discipleship Bible Study. The Apostle Paul told Timothy (2 Timothy 2:2), "And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."

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