



Together
in

TRUTH

THE CHURCH OF GOD

Jerusalem Acres

HOME BIBLE STUDY INITIATIVE

FOREWARD

An Invitation to Step Out in Faith – Together in Truth

Dear Beloved Ministry and Members of The Church of God,

I am overjoyed to introduce our new initiative, Together in Truth—Home Bible Study Initiative, focused on expanding The Church of God through small-group Bible studies. This is a divine opportunity for each of you to engage in ministry, step into new areas of outreach, and make a significant impact in your community and beyond.

I want to ask you a question: Is there any city in this country, or around the world, where God does not desire a church? The answer is a resounding no! God desires His presence to be felt in every corner of the earth, and He wants to use YOU to make that happen. The early Church did not wait for grand buildings or perfect conditions—they moved in faith, meeting in homes, teaching the Word, and watching the Holy Spirit work supernaturally. This biblical pattern remains just as powerful today.

This is your opportunity! God has already given you the tools—a home to open, a gift to share, a burden for souls, and the ability to invite others to experience the truth of His Word. If we embrace this initiative, we will see the supernatural at work. We will witness lives transformed, communities awakened, and new churches established through the faithfulness of God’s people stepping out. Together in Truth, we will multiply disciples, nurture spiritual growth, and expand God’s Church into new territories.

I am asking you to prayerfully consider how you can apply these principles in your own ministry. Whether by opening your home, leading a Bible study, or simply inviting others into fellowship, your obedience will be the catalyst for revival. Just as Peter stepped out of the boat and walked in the supernatural, now is the time for us to step out boldly, trusting that God will accomplish His work through us.

Let us embrace this initiative with open hearts and a willingness to serve. May God bless you abundantly as you walk in faith, Together in Truth!

In His Service,

Presiding Bishop H. David Lam
The Church of God, Jerusalem Acres

ADVANCING THE KINGDOM THROUGH BIBLICAL STUDY AND COMMUNITY

The Together in Truth Home Bible Study Initiative in The Church of God exists to cultivate spiritual growth, establish the Church in biblical truth, and expand the Kingdom of God through evangelism, discipleship, and leadership development.

By fostering genuine community in small-group settings, we seek to deepen believers' understanding of Scripture, equipping them to walk in spiritual authority and sound doctrine. Through these home gatherings, we empower individuals to engage in dynamic discussions, uphold scriptural accuracy, and strengthen their personal relationship with Christ.

Our mission is to multiply disciples, training leaders who will teach, mentor, and develop others in their own faith journey. As the Church grows in truth and unity, these Bible studies will serve as a foundation for church expansion, ensuring that every home becomes a place where Christ is glorified, lives are transformed, and communities are impacted by the power of the Gospel.

Through the study and implementation of this initiative, we will achieve the following key goals:

1. Deepen Biblical Understanding

- Equip believers with sound doctrine and scriptural accuracy.
- Foster dynamic discussions that strengthen personal faith.

2. Empower Leadership and Discipleship

- Train leaders to guide and mentor others in their spiritual journey.
- Multiply disciples who will carry forward the work of the Church.

3. Expand the Church Through Evangelism

- Utilize home Bible studies as outreach centers to bring in new believers.
- Establish a strong foundation for church growth and multiplication.

4. Cultivate Fellowship and Spiritual Growth

- Develop thriving communities of believers who support and uplift each other.
- Strengthen prayer partnerships and accountability among members.

5. Align Ministry with Biblical Models

- Follow the example of Jesus and the early Church in using homes as ministry bases.
- Ensure that our efforts remain centered on God's presence and purpose.

6. Increase Kingdom Impact

- Transform lives and communities through the power of God's Word.
- Prepare the Church to stand firm in truth and faith in all seasons.

This initiative is not just a strategy—it is a call to action. As we embrace these principles, we will witness lasting spiritual transformation, strengthened discipleship, and an expanding network of believers committed to the work of the Gospel.

THE BIBLICAL MODEL

BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS

Home Bible studies have been a foundational method of spiritual growth and evangelism since the early Church. In Acts 2:46, believers gathered in homes, breaking bread and studying the Word together. This intimate setting fosters deep relationships, discipleship, and outreach, making it a powerful tool for expanding the Church today.

Jesus' Example

Jesus often taught in homes, engaging with small groups in personal discussions (Luke 10:38-42, Mark 2:1-12). His ministry was relational, emphasizing personal transformation over large-scale gatherings.

From the earliest days of Jesus' ministry to the expansion of the early Church, homes played a central role in advancing the Gospel. They were not merely places of residence but became hubs for evangelism, discipleship, and spiritual growth. Jesus Himself instructed His disciples to seek out homes that would receive them, and the apostles continued this practice, using homes as strategic bases for outreach. This biblical model provides a strong foundation for the modern practice of home Bible studies.

Jesus' Instructions to the Apostles

When Jesus sent out His disciples, He emphasized the importance of finding receptive homes. In Matthew 10:11-14, He instructed them: "Whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy and stay at his house until you leave. As you enter the home, give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet."

This directive highlights several key principles:

- Homes as Centers of Ministry – The disciples were to establish a presence in homes rather than relying solely on public spaces.
- Spiritual Discernment – They were to recognize where the Gospel was welcomed and where it was rejected.
- Multiplication Through Hospitality – A receptive home became a launching point for further ministry in the community.

The Early Church Model

The apostles continued this practice, meeting in homes for prayer, teaching, and fellowship (Acts 5:42, Acts 12:12). These gatherings strengthened believers and provided a safe space for spiritual growth.

The early Church embraced Jesus' model, using homes as primary locations for teaching, fellowship, and evangelism. Several key homes served as ministry bases:

- The Upper Room (Acts 1:13-14) – The disciples gathered in a home after Jesus' ascension, devoting themselves to prayer. This home became the setting for Pentecost, where the Holy Spirit was poured out.
- Mary's House (Acts 12:12) – After Peter's miraculous release from prison, he went to the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark, where believers were gathered in prayer.
- Lydia's Home (Acts 16:14-15, 40) – Lydia, a convert in Philippi, opened her home to Paul and his companions, making it a center for the new church in that city.

- Priscilla and Aquila's Home (Romans 16:3-5) – This couple hosted a church in their home, demonstrating how households could serve as places of worship and teaching.
- The Home of Philemon (Philemon 1:2) – Paul addressed Philemon, acknowledging the church that met in his house.

Applying This Model to Home Bible Studies

The biblical precedent for using homes as ministry bases aligns perfectly with the vision for home Bible studies today.

Here's how this model can be applied:

- Creating a Welcoming Space – Just as the apostles sought receptive homes, home Bible studies should foster an environment where people feel comfortable exploring faith.
- Teaching and Discipleship – Homes provide an intimate setting for deep scriptural study, allowing believers to grow in understanding.
- Evangelistic Outreach – A home Bible study can serve as a gateway for unbelievers to encounter the Gospel in a personal way.
- Multiplication Through Leadership Development – As seen in Acts, homes became centers for training new leaders who would carry the message forward.

The use of homes in Scripture for ministry was not incidental—it was intentional. Jesus and the apostles recognized the power of small, personal gatherings in spreading the Gospel. Today, home Bible studies continue this tradition, serving as places of evangelism, discipleship, and church growth. By embracing this biblical model, believers can establish strong foundations for faith within their communities, ensuring that the Gospel reaches hearts in the most personal and transformative way.

REASONS HOME BIBLE STUDIES ARE EFFECTIVE

The Power of Small Groups

Home Bible studies create an environment where individuals can:

1. Ask questions freely without fear of judgment.
2. Build strong relationships with fellow believers.
3. Experience personal discipleship and mentorship.

Intimacy & Personal Growth

Unlike large church services, home Bible studies allow for deep discussions and personal application of Scripture. Participants can share struggles, testimonies, and insights in a comfortable setting.

Evangelism & Outreach

Home Bible studies serve as entry points for unbelievers. Many people may hesitate to attend a church service but feel more comfortable joining a small group in a home. This setting allows for organic conversations about faith.

Multiplication & Church Expansion

A single home Bible study can grow into multiple groups, eventually leading to new church plants. As leaders emerge, they can start their own studies, expanding the reach of the Gospel.

The Evangelistic Power of Home Bible Study

Home Bible studies are more than just gatherings for scriptural learning—they are powerful tools for evangelism, discipleship, and spiritual transformation. In the intimate setting of a home, people feel safe to ask questions, wrestle with faith, and encounter the Gospel in a personal way. The early Church thrived on this model, meeting in homes to break bread, pray, and grow together. Today, this approach remains one of the most effective ways to bring people to faith and nurture them into deeper spiritual maturity.

Bringing Participants to Faith

Evangelism in a home Bible study setting is relational. Unlike large church services where seekers may feel anonymous, small groups allow for personal engagement.

Here's how a home Bible study can effectively lead people to Christ:

- Creating a Welcoming Atmosphere – A warm, inviting environment helps newcomers feel comfortable. Hospitality—offering food, genuine conversation, and a relaxed setting—breaks down barriers and opens hearts.
- Presenting the Gospel Naturally – Rather than overwhelming participants with doctrine, weave the message of salvation into discussions. Let Scripture speak for itself, and allow testimonies to illustrate God's transformative power.
- Encouraging Honest Questions – Many seekers wrestle with doubts. A home Bible study provides a safe space for them to ask tough questions without fear of judgment.
- Praying for and with Participants – Prayer is a powerful tool in evangelism. Praying for attendees, and inviting them to pray, fosters openness to God's presence.

- Inviting a Personal Response – As trust builds, encourage participants to take steps toward faith—whether through personal reflection, prayer, or a commitment to follow Christ.

Helping New Believers Grow in Faith

Once someone comes to faith, the journey is just beginning.

A home Bible study can serve as a discipleship hub, guiding new believers into deeper spiritual growth:

- Teaching Foundational Truths – Cover essential topics such as salvation, grace, prayer, and the Holy Spirit. Help new believers understand their identity in Christ.
- Encouraging Scripture Engagement – Provide reading plans, discuss passages together, and teach how to study the Bible effectively.
- Fostering Personal Accountability – Pair new believers with mentors who can walk alongside them, offering encouragement and guidance.
- Incorporating Worship and Prayer – Worship and prayer deepen faith. Encourage participants to develop personal prayer lives and experience God’s presence.
- Challenging Them to Share Their Faith – Evangelism should be a natural outgrowth of discipleship. Encourage new believers to invite others and share their testimony.

The Power of Personal Connections and Accountability

Home Bible studies thrive on relationships. Unlike traditional church settings where people may slip in and out unnoticed, small groups foster deep connections.

Here’s why personal relationships matter:

- Trust Leads to Transformation – People are more likely to open up about struggles and doubts when they feel safe. Trust allows for honest conversations that lead to spiritual breakthroughs.
- Accountability Strengthens Faith – When believers check in on each other, encourage one another, and pray together, spiritual growth accelerates.
- Community Prevents Isolation – Many people drift away from faith due to loneliness. A strong small group ensures that no one walks alone.

Follow-Up and Weekly Connection Strategies

To keep new believers engaged and growing, intentional follow-up is crucial.

Here are practical ways to maintain connection:

- Weekly Check-Ins – A simple text, call, or coffee meeting can make a huge difference in keeping someone engaged.
- Prayer Partnerships – Pair members to pray for each other throughout the week.
- Encouraging Scripture Reflection – Send out a weekly verse or devotional thought to keep participants focused on God’s Word.
- Social Gatherings – Fellowship outside of Bible study strengthens relationships and keeps people connected.
- Service Opportunities – Encourage involvement in ministry or outreach, helping new believers put their faith into action.

Multiplication Through Discipleship

The ultimate goal of home Bible studies is multiplication—disciples making disciples. As new believers grow, they should be encouraged to start their own studies, invite others, and continue the cycle of evangelism and discipleship.

<p>Keeping Home Bible Studies Aligned with Church Leadership <i>Maintaining Focus, Order, and Unity in Small-Group Discipleship</i></p> <p>Home Bible studies are powerful tools for spiritual growth, evangelism, and discipleship. However, without proper alignment with church leadership, they risk becoming isolated, doctrinally inconsistent, or lacking accountability. For these studies to contribute meaningfully to church expansion, they must remain connected to pastoral oversight while fostering vibrant, Spirit-led discussions.</p> <p>Common Challenges in Maintaining Church Alignment Despite their benefits, home Bible studies can encounter several obstacles that hinder proper focus and order:</p>	<p>1. Doctrinal Drift Without oversight, studies can unintentionally introduce teachings that stray from the church's core beliefs. Personal interpretations, outside influences, or conflicting theological views may arise.</p> <p>2. Lack of Accountability Independent Bible studies may neglect spiritual authority, leading to disorder or misleading leadership structures. Without pastoral guidance, participants may lack clear direction.</p> <p>3. Division and Disunity When groups develop their own agendas separate from the church, they can unintentionally foster division rather than unity. Disagreements over leadership, study focus, or group dynamics may cause friction.</p>	<p>1. Establish Clear Oversight and Doctrinal Guidance Home Bible studies should operate under the guidance of church leadership. Pastors and elders can provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved study materials that align with church doctrine. • Regular check-ins to discuss progress, testimonies, and potential concerns. • A framework for addressing theological questions to prevent doctrinal drift. <p>2. Equip and Train Bible Study Leaders Church leaders should invest in equipping those facilitating home studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide leadership training that covers biblical interpretation, group facilitation, and conflict resolution. • Assign mentors to emerging leaders to ensure accountability and doctrinal soundness. • Create leadership handbooks outlining expectations and responsibilities. <p>3. Foster Connection Between Small Groups and Church Vision Bible study leaders should encourage alignment with the broader mission of the church:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that discussions reinforce the church's teachings and goals. • Encourage participants to actively engage in church-wide evangelism, outreach, and ministry programs. • Integrate prayer for the church's leadership, vision, and direction into every study session. 	<p>4. Implement Structure and Consistency Strong home Bible studies maintain order through structured practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set regular meeting schedules and clear expectations for attendance. • Define discussion guidelines to keep studies respectful and focused on Scripture. • Rotate leadership responsibilities to engage participants and prevent burnout. <p>5. Promote Unity and Open Communication Keeping studies connected to the church requires intentional efforts to maintain unity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible study leaders should maintain open communication with pastors and ministry coordinators. • Groups should engage in church-wide prayer meetings, events, and initiatives. • Leaders should encourage transparency, ensuring that personal interpretations do not create division. <p>Strengthening Church Unity Through Home Bible Studies Home Bible studies should not operate as separate entities but as integral extensions of the local church's mission. By implementing oversight, equipping leaders, maintaining doctrinal integrity, and fostering church-wide unity, these gatherings can multiply disciples while preserving spiritual order. When properly aligned with leadership, home studies become dynamic forces for growth, strengthening both individual believers and the broader body of Christ.</p>
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IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL HOSTS & LOCATIONS

Selecting Faithful Believers

- Look for spiritually mature individuals willing to open their homes.
- Ensure hosts have a strong biblical foundation and hospitality skills.
- Train hosts to facilitate discussions and create a welcoming environment.

Choosing the Right Location

- Homes should be comfortable and accessible for participants.
- Consider neutral locations (community centers, coffee shops) if homes are unavailable.
- Ensure the space allows for prayer, worship, and discussion.

Expanding Through Multiplication – Recognizing and Developing Bible Study Leaders

The Need for Leadership Development

A thriving Bible study ministry is not sustained by a single teacher but by a network of equipped leaders who can guide others in scriptural understanding. Recognizing and developing leaders ensures that the work continues beyond one individual, creating a ripple effect of discipleship. Without intentional leadership development, growth stagnates, and the burden of teaching falls on too few.

Recognizing Potential Leaders

Identifying future Bible study leaders requires discernment and observation.

Here are key traits to look for:

- Spiritual Maturity – A strong foundation in Scripture and a personal relationship with Christ.
- Teachability – A willingness to learn and grow in biblical knowledge and leadership skills.
- Effective Communication – The ability to articulate biblical truths clearly and engage others in discussion.
- Passion for Discipleship – A heart for guiding others in their spiritual journey.
- Servant Leadership – A humble and prayerful approach to ministry, prioritizing the needs of others.

Developing Leaders for Bible Study Ministry

Once potential leaders are identified, they must be trained and empowered to lead effectively.

Here's a structured approach to developing them:

- Mentorship and Shadowing – Pair emerging leaders with experienced mentors who can guide them through the process. Allow them to observe Bible study sessions, ask questions, and gradually take on responsibilities.
- Foundational Bible Training – Equip leaders with doctrinal clarity and study methods. Provide structured lessons on biblical interpretation, theology, and effective teaching techniques.
- Practice Leading Small Sessions – Encourage leaders to facilitate discussions in a supportive setting. Start with small groups, allowing them to gain confidence and refine their teaching style.

- Feedback and Encouragement – Offer constructive feedback and affirm their strengths. Encourage them to grow in areas where improvement is needed.
- Prayer and Spiritual Growth – Leadership must be rooted in a deep relationship with God. Encourage personal devotion, prayer, and reliance on the Holy Spirit.
- Leadership Workshops – Host training sessions on effective communication, group dynamics, and biblical interpretation. Provide resources that help leaders navigate challenges in ministry.
- Accountability and Ongoing Development – Keep leaders engaged in their own spiritual growth and leadership refinement. Encourage them to disciple others, ensuring the multiplication process continues.

Multiplication Through Leadership

The ultimate goal of leadership development is multiplication—leaders who not only teach but also equip others to lead. A well-trained Bible study leader should be able to facilitate engaging and doctrinally sound discussions, encourage discipleship within their group, and train others to lead their own Bible studies. By fostering a culture of multiplication, the Church ensures that biblical teaching remains strong, discipleship continues, and the Gospel reaches more people. Leadership development is not just about filling roles—it’s about empowering believers to carry forward the mission of Christ.

LOOKING AHEAD: Preparing for Growth & Multiplication

- Training Future Leaders
- Identify potential leaders within Bible study groups.
- Provide mentorship and leadership training.
- Encourage leaders to start new Bible studies in different locations.
- Transitioning Groups into Church Plants
- As groups grow, consider establishing house churches.
- Maintain connection with the main church for accountability and support.
- Ensure doctrinal alignment with church leadership.

Home Bible studies are powerful tools for church expansion. Every believer can play a role in hosting, teaching, or inviting others. Commit to starting or supporting a home Bible study in your community.

DEVELOPING A BIBLE STUDY CURRICULUM & METHOD

Selecting Study Topics

- Focus on foundational teachings (salvation, discipleship, prayer, spiritual growth).
- We have many studies available here at Headquarters. The Sabbath School Quarterly could also be used as a springboard for study. *Scan QR code to navigate to the resource page on The Church of God website.
- Choose interactive formats (discussion-based, Q&A, testimonies).
- Provide study guides for participants to follow along.

Structuring the Sessions

- Begin with prayer and worship to set the tone.
- Read and discuss key Scripture passages.
- Apply biblical teachings to real-life situations.

Encouraging Participation

- Allow time for questions and personal testimonies.
- Assign weekly challenges (scripture memorization, outreach activities).
- Foster accountability and spiritual growth through follow-ups.



Methods for Effective Home Bible Studies

Home Bible studies can foster deep spiritual growth and meaningful fellowship.

Here are several methods that can be used effectively in a small group setting:

Inductive Bible Study

How to do it: This method involves observing the text, interpreting its meaning, and applying it to life. Start by reading a passage and asking:

- What does the text say? (Observation)
- What does it mean? (Interpretation)
- How does it apply to us? (Application)
- Encourage participants to highlight keywords, cross-reference scriptures, and discuss insights.

Thematic Study

How to do it:

- Choose a theme (e.g., redemption, faith, spiritual warfare) and explore various scriptures related to it.
- Each session can focus on a different aspect of the theme, allowing participants to see how the Bible interconnects.

Character Study

How to do it:

- Select a biblical figure (e.g., Elijah, Ruth, Paul) and examine their life, decisions, and faith journey.
- Discuss their strengths, weaknesses, and lessons applicable to today's believers.

Verse-by-Verse Study

How to do it:

- Read through a book of the Bible systematically, analyzing each verse in depth.
- This method ensures a thorough understanding of scripture in its full context.

Topical Discussion

How to do it:

- Choose a relevant topic (e.g., prayer, holiness, end times) and explore what the Bible says about it.
- Encourage open discussion and personal testimonies.

The Manuscript Method

How to do it:

- Print out a passage without chapter or verse numbers.
- Have participants mark repeated words, themes, and connections.
- This method helps uncover deeper insights.

Praying Scripture

How to do it:

- Read a passage and turn it into a prayer.
- For example, if studying Psalm 23, pray through each verse, applying it to personal and communal needs.

Creative Interaction

How to do it:

- Act out a passage, write a modern-day retelling, or create a visual representation of a biblical concept.
- This method engages different learning styles.

Life Application Study

How to do it:

- After reading a passage, discuss how it applies to daily life.
- Encourage accountability by setting practical steps for applying biblical principles.

Question-Based Study

How to do it:

- Use thought-provoking questions to guide discussion. Examples:
- What stood out to you in this passage?
- How does this challenge your faith?
- What action can you take based on this scripture?

Quick Start Guide for Home Bible Study

Step 1: Preparation

- Gather Materials: Ensure you have all necessary materials, including Bibles, study guides, and any supplementary resources.
- Set a Schedule: Decide on a regular meeting time that works for all participants.
- Choose a Location: Select a comfortable and quiet place for your study sessions.

Step 2: Initial Meeting

- Introduction: Begin with a brief introduction of the study's purpose and goals.
- Icebreaker Activity: Use an icebreaker to help participants get to know each other.
- Distribute Materials: Hand out Bibles and study guides to all participants.

Step 3: Conducting the Study

- Opening Prayer: Start each session with a prayer.
- Reading and Discussion: Read the selected Bible passage and discuss its meaning and application.
- Encourage Participation: Ensure everyone has a chance to share their thoughts and insights.

Step 4: Follow-Up

- Recap: Summarize the key points discussed in the session.
- Assign Homework: Give participants a passage to read or a question to ponder before the next meeting.
- Closing Prayer: End each session with a prayer.

Step 5: Expansion

- Invite New Members: Encourage participants to invite friends and family to join the study.
- Plan Outreach Activities: Organize events or activities to engage the wider community.
- Evaluate Progress: Regularly assess the group's progress and make adjustments as needed.

PROMOTING THE BIBLE STUDY

- Using Church Announcements & Social Media
 - Advertise through church bulletins, websites, and social media platforms.
- Share testimonies from previous Bible studies to inspire participation.
- Create flyers and invitations for members to distribute.
- Personal Invitations & Word-of-Mouth
- Encourage members to invite friends, neighbors, and coworkers.
- Offer childcare and refreshments to make gatherings more accessible.
- Build relationships before inviting people to ensure openness.

You're Invited to a Neighborhood Bible Study

Join us for an evening of encouragement, honest conversation, and connection as we explore the Bible together. Whether you're new to faith, curious, or have followed Jesus for years - there's a seat at the table for you.

What to expect:

- Friendly faces
- Open discussion & time for questions
- Snacks, coffee, and good company
- A welcoming place to grow in God's Word

When: _____

Where: _____

Contact: _____

Come as you are. Bring your questions, your Bible (if you have one), and a friend!

LAUNCHING HOME BIBLE STUDIES

In this section, we will lay out step-by-step instructions for launching home Bible studies, ensuring they are effective in evangelism, discipleship, and church expansion.

- It is essential to start with clear objectives.
- Groups should begin small and gradually build momentum, transitioning into house churches as they grow.
- Maintaining a connection with the main church for accountability and support is crucial, as is ensuring doctrinal alignment with church leadership.
- By creating welcoming environments and establishing consistent meeting times, believers can play pivotal roles in hosting, teaching, or inviting others.
- This approach maximizes the impact of home Bible studies, fostering community engagement and spiritual growth, ultimately contributing to the broader mission of church expansion.

Starting Small & Building Momentum

Begin with a Core Group

- Identify faithful believers who are committed to hosting and leading.
- Start with one or two homes and expand gradually.
- Maintain consistent meeting times (weekly or biweekly).

Establish a Welcoming Environment

- Ensure the home is comfortable and inviting.
- Set up a designated space for study, prayer, and fellowship.
- Provide refreshments to encourage participation.

Set Clear Expectations

Define the purpose and goals of the Bible study.

- To define the purpose and goals of the Bible study, start by discussing the vision with the core group.
- Consider what spiritual growth you aim to achieve and how you will measure success.
- Establish a mission statement that reflects the values and objectives of the group, ensuring it aligns with biblical teachings.
- Identify specific areas of focus, such as deepening scriptural understanding, fostering community, and encouraging personal transformation.

Establish guidelines for discussion and participation.

When establishing guidelines for discussion and participation in a Bible study, ensure a respectful and inclusive environment.

- Set clear rules to make members feel safe and valued, promoting open communication.
- Encourage active listening and equal opportunity to share thoughts without fear of judgment.
- Highlight the Bible's importance while welcoming diverse perspectives.
- Limit speaking times to manage conversation flow and prevent dominance.
- Emphasize confidentiality to build trust, keeping shared personal stories private.

These guidelines foster spiritual growth and meaningful fellowship.

Examples of Rules to Establish

- **Speak Respectfully:** Ensure all comments are made in a respectful tone, avoiding any form of derogatory language or personal attacks.
- **Active Listening:** Encourage members to listen attentively when others are speaking, showing empathy and understanding.
- **Time Limits:** Set a maximum time for individual contributions to ensure everyone has a chance to speak. For example, limit each person's speaking time to 2-3 minutes.
- **Confidentiality:** Establish a rule that personal stories and testimonies shared during the study are confidential and should not be discussed outside the group.
- **Stay on Topic:** Encourage participants to stay focused on the discussion topic and avoid tangents that may distract from the main purpose.
- **Diverse Perspectives:** Welcome and respect different interpretations and understandings of the scripture, fostering an environment of mutual learning.
- **Encourage commitment and accountability among members.**

Engaging & Discipling Participants

- **Encourage Active Participation**
- **Allow time for questions and testimonies.**
- **Use interactive teaching methods (discussion, Q&A, role-playing).**
- **Assign weekly challenges (scripture memorization, outreach activities).**
- **Provide Spiritual Mentorship**
- **Pair new believers with experienced mentors.**
- **Offer one-on-one discipleship for deeper spiritual growth.**
- **Encourage prayer partnerships within the group.**
- **Strengthen Fellowship & Community**
- **Organize social gatherings outside of study sessions.**
- **Encourage members to support one another in daily life.**
- **Foster a culture of love, unity, and accountability.**

PRAY, PRAY, PRAY!

Seeking God through prayer is fundamental to the success of this ministry. In every endeavor we undertake, He is the one who can truly bring about growth and transformation. Without His guidance, all our efforts are in vain. Prayer aligns our hearts with His will, opens doors we couldn't imagine, and brings forth blessings and insights that pave the way for meaningful progress.

Why Prayer is Essential

Prayer is the cornerstone of any spiritual initiative. It invites God's presence into our plans, ensuring that our actions are guided by His wisdom and grace. Through prayer, we acknowledge our dependence on Him, recognizing that it is only through His power that we can achieve lasting impact. When we pray, we invite God to work within us and through us, transforming lives and communities in profound ways.

Specific Prayer Points for Our Ministry

- Guidance: Pray for clarity and discernment in decision-making and direction for our ministry.
- Unity: Seek God's help to foster unity of the Spirit and cooperation among all participants.
- Wisdom: Ask for wisdom to understand and apply the teachings from the Bible effectively.
- Impact: Pray that our efforts will bear fruit and that lives will be transformed by our ministry.
- Protection: Request God's protection over each member and the ministry as a whole.
- Outreach: Pray for opportunities to reach new members and engage the wider community.
- Personal Growth: Seek God's guidance for personal spiritual growth for each participant.
- Resources: Pray for the necessary resources, both material and spiritual, to sustain our ministry.

Let us continually lift up our ministry in prayer, trusting that God will bring the increase and glorify His name through our efforts.

WE ARE WELL ABLE!

Just as Joshua and Caleb stood with unwavering faith, declaring, "We are well able to take the land," so too can the ministry of The Church of God rise with confidence and determination. Their boldness and trust in God's promises serve as a powerful example for us today. By establishing and implementing Bible studies in new locations—whether in homes, coffee shops, or wherever God opens the door—we can take territory for God. With God fighting for us and preparing the way, we can move forward with assurance, knowing that every step we take is guided by His divine plan. Let us embrace this mission with the same spirit of faith and courage, believing that with God, all things are possible.



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