

A Bible Study of Philippians Action Plan Leader's Guide

Welcome to your new Bible study! These action plans are very dear to Joyce's heart because the study of God's Word has radically transformed her life... and it's given her a passion to help others experience the same freedom in their own lives.

As you prepare to lead your group, we've put together a list of suggestions to help you get started. We pray that your upcoming study is a great success!

HERE ARE A FEW THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND...

Prime yourself in prayer.

Before the first meeting, ask God to help you embark on your own personal journey as well as facilitate the times of sharing and prayer you will all have together.

Focus on Christ as the leader.

Know that God will work through you to lead the group, facilitating discussion and prayer, but keep the focus on Christ. Don't pressure yourself to have all the answers!*

Let everyone know what to expect.

Make sure everyone knows how long the group study will last and how often you'll meet. Establish flexible guidelines for the time you will spend watching or listening to the teaching, engaging in the group discussion and praying together.

Lay the ground rules.

Make sure it's clear that "what's said in the group, stays in the group." You want this to be a "safe place" to open up and share.

Sharing is not mandatory.

Some people may be hesitant to share personal things with the group. It's good to encourage group participation, but make it clear that it is always *voluntary*, not a requirement.

Everyone's voice should be heard.

Some people may want to share everything that's ever happened to them and others won't want to say a word. Healthy group discussion

gives time and opportunity for each person to talk. If you express this desire at the outset, it will help everyone be mindful not to dominate the conversation.

Group time is just the beginning.

The group meetings are important, but there are some things that can only happen when we spend time alone with Jesus. Each person's journey is personal and unique, and it's the days in-between the meetings when the most progress is made. So, encourage everyone to study on their own. Your group may be reading a book or using a personal study guide with interactive questions and activities. Keeping your focus throughout the week is the best way to get results!

We're all on this journey together!

Having group members pair up as prayer partners throughout the study can provide a support system on days between your group time. It's amazing how God can use us to help others while we're going through our own challenges in life!

****Counseling should be provided by a qualified or licensed counselor.***