

## **FINDING INTERESTS FOR YOUR THUNDER BIBLE STUDIES**

**The Testimony & Ask Model:** In most cases to get a Bible study started you will have to share a testimony about the studies and ask if you may share one of them. “I have found a new Bible study program on DVD and I am really enjoying it. I’m finding the lessons are so \_\_\_\_\_. May I show one of them? They are only about 30 minutes long.”

After the members have had some experience trying out a Bible study from the series, ask them to brainstorm on a white board for their own descriptive words to put in the blank above. (Such as: encouraging, fun, heart-warming, interesting, insightful, clear, etc.)

If they are going to offer a small group (see below), let them brainstorm about how to describe what they want their group to offer. Such as fellowship, camaraderie, fun, insight, mutual support, prayer, spiritual growth.

**Would you help me? Model:** Ask friends to help you, as Jesus did with the woman at the well. After the initial training in Wisconsin, trainees are given the first DVD. To get the next DVD they must first give 2 Bible studies. Therefore, they can honestly say to a friend,

“I’ve taken a course in how to give Bible studies. But to get the rest of my materials I have to give 2 Bible studies. Would you help me by letting me give you a Bible study?”

**Homemade Bread & African Violets Model** (or catching the drops God has already sent): In one of pastor Chuck’s churches, they used to take a loaf of homemade bread to guests who had visited their church. This allowed them to become more acquainted with them. One of their members grew African violets on a big scale. So two weeks later they would visit again bringing them an African violet, and an offer of Bible studies. This was their best source of interests! They had already shown an interest and also had no fear of coming to their church.

**The Bible Fellowship Group Model:** (Centripetal – We are having a special event, come and see!) In this method several members go together to create a small group to invite their friends and neighbors to.

“The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort has been presented to me by One who cannot err.” *Christian Service p. 72*

These meetings would follow the format used by Serendipity groups, as seen in the margins of the Serendipity Bible. You see there three symbols, a tea cup, a Bible, and a heart.

The tea cup stands for how you start the group each week with a beverage and an ice breaker question. These questions make a fun, get-acquainted exercise. You can find good ones by searching on line for “ice breaker questions.”

The Bible stands for Bible study time. The *Thunder in the Holy Land* studies are small group in nature and will work very well.

The heart stands for sharing time, when group members share their needs for prayer. Then the leader or host of the group closes with prayer. Some of the prayer content will flow naturally from the comments and testimonies that are shared during the *impression question* time. (New comers often are not confident in praying. Neither do they want to be asked to pray out loud. But they are soon confident in the prayers of their group, and appreciate their ministry.)

To accomplish this, a group of church members agree to start a small group and choose a place and a time. In their first meeting (members only) they go through the above pattern using one of the later lessons from *Thunder in the Holy Land* to become more acquainted with the lessons and how the group discussion works. They should also discuss the “POINTS FOR PARTNERS TO READ” handout. Then in their “heart” time (prayer time), pray that God will show them people they can invite to their next meeting.

If no visitor comes to the next meeting, then do another of the later lessons from *Thunder in the Holy Land* studies. If no one comes after about six weeks, then try a different time and location.

**Friends of New Members Model:** Ask your new convert(s) if they have a friend they would like to invite. Let them become your partner in sharing the Bible studies they have just completed with someone else.

**Paid Out Accounts Model:** Following up paid out accounts from our LE’s is one of the most productive methods. People who have already spent hundreds of dollars on books have prequalified themselves as interested in spiritual things. Our experience is about 95% success rate of starting Bible studies.

**Direct Advertising Model:** Sermon View can help you market your *Thunder* studies with flyers, direct DVD mailings, and even web hosting your first episodes and ads. You can call them directly at (800) 525-5791 or you can visit the following web address, [EvangelismMarketing.com/thunder](http://EvangelismMarketing.com/thunder).