

POINTS FOR PARTNERS TO READ **on their way to the Bible study**

WHY YOU ARE IMPORTANT TO THIS STUDY:

The number one reason new converts aren't in church a year later is not because they no longer believe newly learned Biblical truths, it is because they don't feel they fit in. This problem is solved from day one by bringing you along. Your part is integral to the success of these studies.

Following are some tried and tested pointers, some do's and don'ts, that will help the group work cohesively as a whole.

DO's:

1. **Share a positive Testimony.** Most of the suggested answers to the questions are opportunities to give a positive testimony. To an Interest, a new truth may seem strange or alien. But hearing you, a believer, say of this truth, "It makes me thankful!" helps them to see the good in it! And without arguing, your positive statement of what the truth means to you can also balance out the negative statements that others may make.

Our confession of His faithfulness is Heaven's chosen agency for revealing Christ to the world. ... that which will be most effectual is the testimony of our own experience. ... These precious acknowledgments to the praise of the glory of His grace, when supported by a Christ-like life, have an irresistible power that works for the salvation of souls. {DA 347.3}

2. **Be a good example.** Each Bible study creates an opportunity for the Interest(s) to learn new things that may challenge them in their personal journey toward Christ. It is important then to be a good example in what we wear and drink. So, please don't wear, drink or otherwise indulge in anything that you know a later Bible study will ask them to give up for Jesus.

Jesus taught that by our words and our example we either gather people to Him or we scatter them away (see Luke 11:23). There is no in-between. As a partner in giving a Bible study be totally committed to gathering with Jesus.

3. **Be positive.** When it comes to our relationship with Christ, there is enough truth, love, and grace to hang on to when we travel through our doubts. There is a saying that goes like this, "Doubt your doubts before you doubt your beliefs." Satan will be at the study suggesting doubts to you and to the Interest(s). If a doubt comes to your mind, don't express it in the Bible study.

As church members, we have a wonderful support system to help us with our questions and doubts. We have pastors, elders, teachers, Sabbath School and prayer groups, Christian friends, the Spirit of Prophecy, the Bible Commentaries, etc. But the Interests we are studying with do not have all these things. Many of them struggle daily with discouragement, or a negative mind-set. Therefore, take the Bible admonitions seriously, “Abound in hope,” “Rejoice in the Lord always,” “If there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” (Rom. 15:13; Phil 4:4, 8) Let your visit be the bright spot in their week.

DON'Ts:

1. **Don't run subjects together.** Whenever possible, keep your subjects separate.
2. **Don't knock any church** (Including your own).
3. **Don't invalidate their previous experience.** (Their upbringing, speaking in tongues, or whatever.) Simply give them better things to treasure, and in due time they will.
4. **Don't try to convict someone by scolding or pressing home to them what they should do.** Having shown them the scripture, we can appeal to them, share a testimony with them of how we have been blessed by walking in the truth, and we can pray for them. But let the Holy Spirit convict them!
5. **Don't argue.** If someone seems determined to argue, pray for wisdom and it will come. Often having shown them the scripture, you can give a testimony of what a blessing this particular truth has been to you, and then move on to the next point. Or, have prayer for them and then move forward. There are no simple formulas, but the Holy Spirit will be there to help you (Exo 4:15).
6. **Don't bring up things for the facilitator or someone else to defend.** Only bring up questions relevant and supportive to the study topic.
7. **Don't simply loan one of these videos to an Interest.** They need the regular weekly appointment for Bible Study with you to keep them on track and growing. They need interaction with you as a friend. They need your affirmation. They need your encouragement. They need your prayers for them. They need YOU along with the video!
8. **Don't refer to the Spirit of Prophecy until that subject has been covered.** I like to share a Desire of Ages with them about half way through but I don't comment on the author. If they do read some of it, it will make the Spirit of Prophecy subject easier when you come to it. Using Ellen White's writings for proof before it has been presented will prejudice people against her.

SOME TIMELY QUOTES

You should not feel it your duty to introduce arguments upon the Sabbath question as you meet the people. If persons mention the subject, tell them that this is not your burden now. But when they surrender heart and mind and will to God, they are then prepared candidly to weigh evidence in regard to these solemn, testing truths. {Ev 228.3}

First the Fundamental Principles: Do not make prominent those features of the message which are a condemnation of the customs and practices of the people, until they have opportunity to know that we are believers in Christ, that we believe in His divinity and in His pre-existence. Let the testimony of the world's Redeemer be dwelt upon. {Ev 231.1}

Talk of Christ, and when the heart is converted, everything that is out of harmony with the Word of God will drop off. {Ev 272.2}

Testimonies Not Ahead of Bible: The more we look at the promises of the Word of God, the brighter they grow. The more we practice them, the deeper will be our understanding of them. Our position and faith is in the Bible. And never do we want any soul to bring in the Testimonies ahead of the Bible. --Manuscript 7, 1894. {Ev 256.3}

I stated that some had taken an unwise course; when they had talked their faith to unbelievers, and the proof had been asked for, they had read from my writings instead of going to the Bible for proof. It was shown me that this course was inconsistent and would prejudice unbelievers against the truth. The Testimonies can have no weight with those who know nothing of their spirit. They should not be referred to in such cases. {5T 669.2}