

## Leader's Guide for Small Groups

*You can use these suggestions for any small group,  
including with your children.*

Leading a group discussion is a rewarding experience. It can also be frightening, especially if it's your first time. By giving specific suggestions, this guide will help you to facilitate group discussions. As you prepare and lead the group, remember 2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV): "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Accept His grace and power to lead your group.

### **Here are some ideas that may help you:**

1. Pray that God will give wisdom and guidance as you study to learn everything He wants to teach you personally, as well as to effectively lead the discussion. Also pray for God to give all group members understanding and excitement as they study.
2. Start and end on time. Begin each class with prayer.
3. Have students do the study for each week before they come to class. Participants can use a separate notebook to write down what the Lord is showing them through each truth.
4. When there are many Scriptures on a topic, don't expect people to study every verse. It is more important that they go deep in their understanding of the topic. For each section, ask questions that could cover many of the verses in that section.
5. In the first session, as well as whenever anyone new begins the class, tell everyone that everything shared in the study is completely confidential. Get an agreement from participants that they will not share outside the group anything they hear in the group—including talking to each other about another member when they are not present.
6. Encourage each member to participate but be sensitive to the shy ones. Never call on anyone who has not volunteered to share. Wait until they are ready to talk; otherwise the group may feel unsafe to those who are more introverted.
7. During the session, ask the following questions and allow the group to discuss each one:
  - o Which truths stood out to you and why?
  - o Which verses ministered to you and why?
  - o What is the Lord teaching you as you do this study?
8. End each class with a time of prayer, giving participants an opportunity to share with God whatever is on their heart.

9. In the first session, if the group members don't know each other, have everyone briefly introduce themselves. Keep it short so you have time for the Bible study.

**Enjoy your study. As you share with your group, you will learn even more than you would on your own.**