

Bible Study Leader Guide

How to Lead a Powerful, Transformational Bible Study

Using the “Going Deeper” Resources

Before you lead each week, you are not starting from scratch.

As a church, we have created resources to help you lead with confidence, clarity, and depth.

You can use all of the **Going Deeper resources** provided for the James series to prepare your heart and guide your study:

- **the weekly video teaching to help you understand the passage**
- **the Bible study guide to structure your conversation**
- **the blogs to deepen your perspective and application**

These resources are not meant to replace your leadership.

They are meant to **strengthen it**.

Use them to:

- **prepare your heart before the study**
- **clarify your understanding of the text**
- **identify key truths to guide discussion**

The more prepared your heart is, the more effective your leadership will be.

1. The Role of a Bible Study Leader

Before structure, you need clarity on your role.

You are not just a teacher.

You are a shepherd, facilitator, and guide.

Your responsibility is to:

- **create an environment where people feel safe to engage**
- **help people understand Scripture clearly**
- **lead people to personal application**
- **keep the group focused and moving**
- **depend on the Holy Spirit, not just your preparation**

Key Mindset

You are not responsible to change people.

You are responsible to **faithfully lead them to truth and create space for God to work.**

2. The Goal of a Great Bible Study

A successful study is not measured by:

- **how much content you cover**
- **how long you talk**
- **how impressive the teaching sounds**

A successful study is measured by:

- **engagement**
- **understanding**
- **conviction**
- **application**

Simple Goal

Every person leaves knowing what the Scripture says, what it means, and what it requires of their life.

3. Recommended 75 Minute Structure

This is a proven flow you can follow each week.

0–10 Minutes: Connection and Welcome

Purpose: Build comfort and community

What to do:

- **greet people personally**
- **light conversation**
- **ask simple opening questions**

Examples:

- **What was one highlight from your week?**
- **What has God been teaching you lately?**

Leader tip:

Do not skip this.

People engage spiritually when they feel relationally connected.

10–15 Minutes: Set the Direction

Purpose: Focus the room

::Pastor Jordan's Weekly Going Deeper Video Teaching Can Be Used Here If Desired::

What to do:

- **briefly explain what passage you are studying**
- **share the main theme for the night**
- **remind them of the purpose of the study**

Example:

“Tonight we are looking at how God uses trials to grow our faith and what it means to remain steadfast.”

Leader tip:

Keep this short and clear.

You are setting direction, not preaching a sermon.

15–35 Minutes: Scripture and Observation

Purpose: Understand what the text actually says

What to do:

- **read the passage together**
- **ask observation questions**

Examples:

- **What stands out to you in this passage?**
- **What words or phrases seem important?**
- **What is happening in these verses?**

Leader tip:

Do not rush this.

Most people skip observation and jump to opinion.

Slow them down and anchor them in the text.

35–55 Minutes: Interpretation and Teaching

Purpose: Understand what the text means

What to do:

- **explain key truths clearly**
- **bring in helpful insights from the study**
- **guide discussion toward correct understanding**

Examples:

- **What does this teach us about God?**
- **What does this reveal about faith or discipleship?**
- **Why does James say this here?**

Leader tip:

This is where you may teach more, but keep it interactive.
Do not dominate the conversation.

Guide it.

55–70 Minutes: Application and Heart Work

Purpose: Move from knowledge to transformation

This is the most important part.

Ask questions like:

- **What is God saying to you personally through this?**
- **Where does this challenge your life right now?**
- **What needs to change because of this truth?**

Push for clarity:

- **Not vague answers**
- **Not general statements**

But real, personal responses.

Leader tip:

If you run out of time, never skip this section.
This is where transformation happens.

70–75 Minutes: Prayer and Close

Purpose: Seal the moment spiritually

What to do:

- **pray specifically based on what was shared**
- **invite others to pray if appropriate**

Leader tip:

Pray for:

- **strength to obey**

- **clarity to apply**
- **endurance where needed**

Do not rush this.
End with purpose.

4. Practical Leadership Tips

1. Ask Better Questions

Bad question:

“What do you think?”

Better question:

“What does this passage clearly say?”

“How does this challenge your life right now?”

Specific questions lead to real answers.

2. Draw People Out

Some people will not speak unless invited.

You can say:

“I would love to hear from someone who hasn’t shared yet.”

Be gentle, not forceful.

3. Manage Dominant Talkers

If someone talks too much:

- **affirm them**
- **redirect the group**

Example:

“That is really good. I want to hear from a few others too.”

4. Handle Silence Well

Silence is not bad.

Do not rush to fill it.

Sometimes people are thinking deeply.

Give it space.

5. Keep the Group on Track

If conversation drifts:

- **gently bring it back**

Example:

“That is a great thought. Let’s bring it back to what this passage is showing us.”

6. Be Real, Not Perfect

You do not need to have every answer.

If you do not know:

“That is a great question. Let me look into that and follow up.”

Authenticity builds trust.

5. Preparing Each Week

Before your group meets:

1. Read the Passage Multiple Times

Do not just skim it.

Sit with it.

2. Identify the Main Truth

Ask:

What is the one thing this passage is teaching?

3. Prepare Key Questions

Have 5–8 solid questions ready.

4. Pray Specifically

Pray for:

- **your group members by name**
- **clarity in teaching**
- **openness in hearts**

5. Anticipate Challenges

Think through:

- **where people may struggle**
- **where confusion may happen**

Prepare to guide them through it.

6. Creating the Right Environment

The environment matters more than you think.

Create a space that is:

- **welcoming**
- **distraction free**
- **open and safe**

Set expectations:

- **confidentiality**
- **respect**
- **no judgment**

People will only open up if they feel safe.

7. What Makes a Study Transformational

A study becomes powerful when:

- **people engage honestly**
- **Scripture stays central**
- **application is clear**
- **the Holy Spirit is invited**

The difference maker

Not better content.

Not better speaking.

Better obedience.

8. Final Encouragement to Leaders

You do not need to be the most knowledgeable person in the room.

You need to be:

- **faithful**
- **prepared**
- **dependent on God**
- **willing to lead**

God uses ordinary leaders who are surrendered to Him.

Final Anchor

A great Bible study is not one where people leave impressed. It is one where people leave changed.