

How to Conduct In-Home Bible Studies

Scriptures:

2 Timothy 2:15: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (King James Version throughout this section).

1 Thessalonians 4:11: "And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you."

Romans 1:29-32: "Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful, who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."

1 Corinthians 14:26: "How is it then brethren? When ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying."

Proverbs 27:17: "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."

Ephesians 4:11-16: "And He gave some apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ; till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ; from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."

Titus 1:9: "Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers."

Colossians 2:7: "Rooted and built up in Him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving, beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."

1 Timothy 1:6-7: "From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm."

Titus 3:9: "But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain."

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2 Timothy 2:16: "But shun profane and vain babblings; for they will increase unto more ungodliness, and their word will eat as doth a canker; of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some."

Ephesians 5:6: "Let no man deceive you with vain words; for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience."

It is a wonderful thing for the people of God to gather in someone's home for the purpose of studying the Bible. It is not necessary to have a minister present in order to study the Scriptures, but there are guidelines and principles that should be followed to produce a positive result.

1. Remember the purpose for your study. It has to be to learn more about God's way and how to apply those principles in your life.
2. You must never argue or debate over the Scriptures. If you cannot come to agreement over the meaning, you should not destroy the positive aspects of study by arguing. Paul admonished the Corinthians that everything must be to "edifying" or building up the body of Christ. Arguing and debating will destroy the body.
3. Choose a topic that you know will produce in-depth study. Do not choose a topic that you know will produce controversy.
4. If you have a question about a particular topic, then check with your pastor. He will be happy to give you help with background material and an explanation of the subject or section of Scripture that you plan to study.
5. Invite people that you know have an interest in studying the Scriptures as opposed to those who have a reputation for being argumentative.
6. An in-home Bible study should not be used as an excuse for gossip or passing along tales about others in the congregation.
7. Be sure that someone is in charge of the study. Normally this would be the homeowner who also serves as the host. This person must use wisdom and know when a discussion has reached the point of no longer being profitable. He should have the ability to stop any discussion that reaches this point.
8. Check Church literature to see if there is anything in print from the Church on the topic you will be discussing. If you have a view that differs from the Church, be sure you understand the Church's view thoroughly and ask questions of the pastor before holding a study on this subject. It is wrong to put a stumbling block before another Christian. Paul commands that we teach what we have been taught. There is a difference between privately holding a different view from the Church and actually teaching a different view.
9. Make the occasion a social one as well as one for study. Serving food and hosting people in your home can be a most enjoyable experience. Couple this with a good, positive and uplifting Bible study and it could become the highlight of your week.