
STUDY GROUP GUIDELINES for MANITOULIN YOUTH CONFERENCE

*The study group format is the backbone of Manitoulin Youth Conference. These small group discussions, centered on a common study of God's word, make the Bible School unique. In the past, a good study has made for a good Conference despite days of rain! However, **solid preparation is required to make a study group work**. This handout will outline some hints and suggestions to assist you in your first discussion group or provide a short review as you prepare for the 2017 Conference.*

Study Group Goals

1. Help people understand the section.
2. Share information and lessons from scripture.
3. Bring out any first principles in the section.
4. Apply God's word to daily living and ecclesial life.
5. Learn to talk about the Truth with friends.

Preparation for Leaders and Assistant Leaders

1. **Complete the study.**
2. Prepare relevant notes with essential verses and lessons highlighted.
3. Seriously consider practical lessons from the section.
4. Prepare a concise 2 - 5 minute summary of the section that will highlight the key points of the day's study. (It is your responsibility that everyone in your group leaves with some key lessons.)

Discussion Groups

1. The leader is meant to coordinate and create an environment for discussion (not to speak for long periods of time).
2. The assistant leader is to aid the leader by being actively involved in the discussion.
3. **The leader and assistant should meet beforehand to discuss how to best organize their group.**

Please turn over...

Suggestions

1. Seating should be in a circle with the leader and assistant opposite each other.
2. Simple icebreaker activities may promote participation (~5 minutes).
3. Read verses around the circle so everyone is included.

Do...

- ✓ **Be well prepared!!!**
- ✓ Stay on topic
- ✓ Summarize key points
- ✓ Redirect questions to promote involvement
- ✓ Create an atmosphere where everyone feels comfortable to participate
- ✓ Balance discussion with practical and expositional thoughts
- ✓ Keep the discussion moving

Don't...

- × Facilitate a mutual sharing of ignorance
- × Raise controversial / polarizing issues only to stimulate discussion
- × Let the conversation get carried away on speculation
- × Let one or two individuals dominate the discussion
- × Allow the discussion to turn into a debate
- × Use icebreakers as a way to waste 10-20 minutes
- × Use trick questions or "red herrings"
- × Center people out
- × Be critical