

Small Group Format

(15-20 minutes) Caring and Sharing
 Wait for people to come (no more than 10 mins)
 Checking Up Time- See how the week went for each member.
 Enquire of how their spiritual life is going. Give advice and
 encouragement when needed.
 (Optional Icebreaker Question)

(5-10 minutes) Season of Prayer
 Prayer Requests and Thanksgiving

(30-40 minutes) Lesson Discussion

(1 Hour Total)

For a detailed explanation, please refer to Small Group Sessions on the next page.

Small Group Sessions

Call your members. The most important thing in getting your members to show up to your Sabbath School Class is to call them to remind them. Even if you think they will remember to come on their own, a phone call will also serve to encourage them to come.

Be there 15 minutes early to pray. You want to be there early to set up if needed and use the remaining time to relax and pray before your members arrive. Prayer is power.

Know that people will be late. Don't let people's tardiness discourage you. Instead of waiting in silence for the people to come, talk to whoever is there and get to know them.

Caring and Sharing. Spend the next 15-20 minutes asking how the week went for each member. Enquire of how their spiritual life is going. Give advice and encouragement when needed. This will create a family atmosphere. If the location allows, food can help lend to this atmosphere. Light refreshments would do.

Season of Prayer. Take the next 5-10 minutes asking for prayer requests and thanksgiving and have a season of prayer. As the people become more comfortable, you can call on some of the members pray, or even have a circle prayer.

Lesson Study. This should take up the majority of the time. Plan and time all the preliminaries in a way that you are leaving yourself enough time (30-40 minutes) for the Lesson Study. When you lead out the Lesson Study, use the methods outlined in this packet. Remember, the best group studies are the ones where the leader speaks the least.

Ask Warm Up Question. The first question of the lesson will serve as an introduction to your topic and your passage.

Ask someone to read the passage.

Break up the passage into smaller bites. Have different people read different chunks of the passage.

Restate each part of the passage in your own words. You are not interpreting the passage, just restating it.

Discussion Questions

Ask someone an open-ended question. These questions will bring out the principle of the passage. If someone is having a hard time answering, restate the question in a simpler way.

Restate the person's answer in your own words. You are not interpreting their answer, just restating it. If they gave a long answer, give a summary of what they said.

Repeat the last two steps as often as desired before you move on. Ask other people the same question, or ask a follow up question that comes to mind to add to the discussion.

Make a transition. Based on what your group has said, make a statement that will lead into the next question.

Make a conclusion. Emphasize the good things that people have said throughout the discussion in order to make a concluding thought to leave them with.

End the lesson discussion on time. Be mindful of the time. Allow the discussion to flow; however, don't lose track of time. After you felt like you've dwelt long enough on a verse, move on to the next passage. Some may want to go longer. That's okay. Leave them wanting more. This will motivate them to study the lesson for themselves and come next week for more dialogue.

Pray about it. Each lesson has a final prayer that people can make individually. Give them time to pray that sort of prayer. Then end with a short simple prayer to close.