Bible Society

Canadian Bible Society

The Bible Course

Course Hosts Notes

These notes are designed to assist the Course Host in facilitating The Bible Course by providing an overview and key information for each session. We've included some further ideas, suggestions and tips to help your course run smoothly and enhance the experience for everyone who attends.

Preparation checklist for each session:

- **Refreshments and food options**
  You might like to enhance your Bible Course by offering refreshments. Tea and coffee are always appreciated and you might like to explore our ideas for Bible food tasters or more adventurous options that tie in with the theme of the session. We suggest making an extra effort for session 1 as a launch event for the whole course. Encourage everyone to come along and see if the course is for them.
- **Sound and Vision**
  Being able to see and hear the films are key to the success of your course. You will need to consider the size and requirements of your group and project the films appropriately. A smaller home group should be fine with a good quality TV. A larger group may require a video projector, screen and speakers. Viewing angles, comfort and appropriate volume are key issues that need to be considered.
- **Room set up**
  Consider the room that you plan to use and make sure the lighting, temperature and seating/viewing angles are comfortable for everyone to minimise distractions during the course.
- **Spare manuals, pens and Bibles**
  Have some pens and a few spare Course manuals available in case someone forgets to bring theirs. And for those who don't have a copy, it would be helpful to offer copies of the Bible in a modern translation. The Course uses the English Standard Version but other translations are also fine (e.g. New International Version).
- **Recommended Resources**
  In the back of the manual, we've provided a Recommended Reading list for people who would like to take their exploration of the Bible further. If possible, why not have some copies of these books and resources available to borrow or to buy.
- **Prayer**
  In all your preparations, do remember to pray for each person attending the course. Pray that they will enjoy the course, connect well with other people and grow in confidence with the Bible.

Discussion-starter Questions:
For each session we've included an optional question to get conversation going before the first teaching video. These are especially useful if your group are new to each other. From session 2 onwards, you could also begin by asking someone to give a ONE MINUTE recap of the last session. From session 3 onwards, this could include drawing The Bible Course storyline on a flipchart and mentioning the important events, characters and books so far. But make sure it is timed to just one minute! We have given some suggestions for the content for each recap below.

Personal Reflection time:
At the end of each session, we have provided space for Personal Reflection (suggested 10 mins). This gives an opportunity to reflect on the content of the session as a whole and the key verse of Scripture given in the manual. We suggest allowing 5 minutes to reflect on the key verse and to write down in the space allotted in the manual something that has encouraged and challenged you. Then allow 5 minutes in pairs or triplets to share some of those personal reflections and to pray together. You might also suggest that everyone commits to memorising the key verse of Scripture over the coming week.

Daily Readings:
The Daily Readings provided at the end of each chapter of the manual aim to establish a personal rhythm of reading the Bible throughout the week. The daily readings cover some of the key moments in the section of the Bible story that will be referred to in the following session. We have found that when guests participate in the daily readings they get so much more from The Bible Course as a whole. So we want to encourage you to make this a priority. Why not set up a digital group (e.g. social media/text/email) for your course and send the daily reading Scripture reference as a prompt each day and invite people to comment on what they are learning and experiencing through the daily readings.