



tcS0008

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— “Small Group Bible Study” —

Should you join or start a small Bible Study group? You'll want to understand the differences between a **TEACHING forum** and a **LEARNING forum**. The focus is on the teacher in a TEACHING forum. An interactive LEARNING forum is focused on the participants.

We have gained substantial experience with several group sizes and three different formats. For maximum learning, smaller groups of 5-12 with trained-facilitator-led discussion has proven best for us—but we've enjoyed rewarding experiences with two or three[^] participants, too. Synergy often emerges and participants learn from one another! That's partly because they aren't looking at the backs of one another's heads. The caveat is that the facilitator must become a lecturer (albeit flexible and interactive) when presenting material that is just marginally familiar or not familiar at all to the participants.

[^]See Matthew 18:20.

Several participants in our various groups (as young as 15 and as old as 93) have announced that they had learned more about the Bible and Christianity in just a few of our weekly or monthly study groups than they had ever learned in church. One must wonder if that is because "church" is all about *praise and worship*. If so, that would be a really sad report, given the fact that Our Heavenly Father is quoted at Hosea 4:6 as saying His people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge. Add to that the message of the only verse in the Bible that tells us how to gain God's approval—2 Timothy 2:15.

PS: A smart facilitator may learn more than all the other participants.

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After you've gotten familiar with these short articles, you'll have a really good idea of what to expect from our Online Bible Study Series. Just read the Intro article there, to learn whether it's for you... or not.

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