

5 Things Every  
Bible Study  
Leader Should  
Know

# 5 Things Every Bible Study Leader Should Know

As a leader, there will be times in life when you just aren't sure where to go or what's next.

Regardless of where you are in your season of leadership, here are 5 things that every leader should know:

## 1. You should not answer every question.

If you get into the habit of answering every question asked you will quickly turn a discussion into a Q & A session. Discussions are much more profitable

Turn the questions back to the class and give the class an opportunity to answer. This feeds the discussion and someone in the class has probably studied enough to answer appropriately.

For example, in a Sermon on the Mount class, a student asked at the very beginning of the discussion, "What does it mean that Jesus came to fulfill the law?" The leader turned the question back to the class and it became the focal point for the entire discussion. At the end the leader asked the student and she shared what it meant that Christ fulfilled the law.

Remember, your goal is to guide a discussion, not to answer every question.

## 2. "I don't know" is a perfectly acceptable answer.

No one expects you to or really believes that you know all of the answers. And, you gain everyone's respect when you admit it.

## 3. Help the students make application to their own lives.

Ask questions that will help them see what they have in common with the passage or the characters in the passage. Then help them see ways the truth presented might work itself out in their lives.

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But, don't make it too specific. "The next time you are at our local bank and Michael is your teller, ignore his attitude and remember to love your neighbor." While that might be your application, it might not be personal application for everyone in the class. Leave room for the Spirit to work.

4. **Tell them at the beginning of the class, and maybe at the beginning of every class, it is ok if they talk.**

Remind them it is ok if they answer each other's questions. If they are talking (about the lesson) more than you are, the discussion is probably going great.

5. **Don't make yourself the focal point of the discussion.**

Don't answer each time a question is asked, don't respond to every comment. Hesitate and let the class have time to process the question and see if someone might respond. If no one answers, repeat the question for the class and let them discuss it.

Everyone makes mistakes. Here are some common mistakes that several Bible study leaders have made during their time of leading:

## **Mistakes:**

1. **Asked the wrong questions.**

- Open ended.
- Text driven.
- Plan ahead of time the questions you want to ask.

2. **Trying to be somebody I am not.**

- Not walking in confidence that God has called me as a leader.
- Focusing too much on self and natural abilities which will lead to insecurity.

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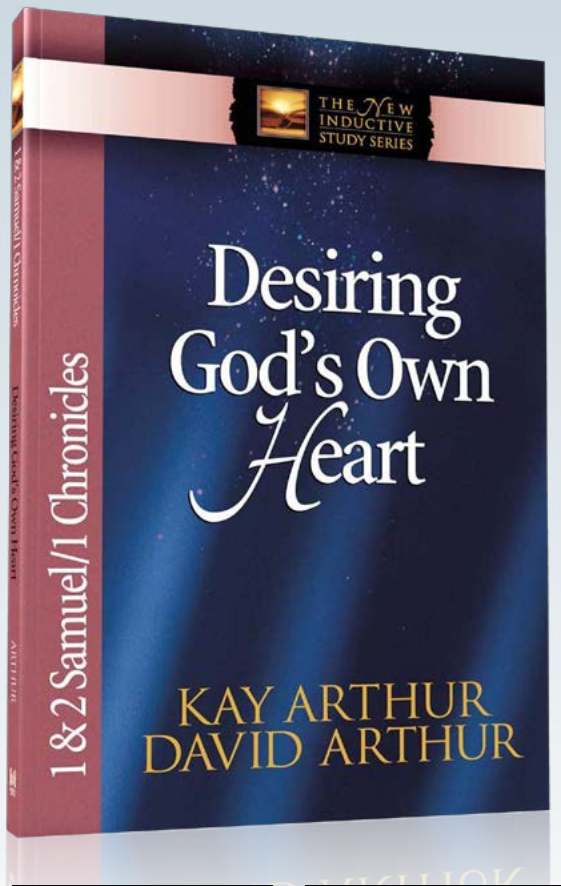
- Nervousness, comparing myself to others, rather than focusing on supernatural giftedness and calling.
  - Don't be intimidated by how others do it but walk in your giftedness and calling. He created you unique and He has equipped you.
- 3. Didn't spend enough time in the lesson to thoroughly understand it.**
    - I did home work, but did not take the time to think through it and see the connections.
  - 4. Study to lead, not learn.**
    - The goal is life change. Yours and theirs.
  - 5. Talking too much, lecturing, teaching, telling them everything I know (or think I know).**
  - 6. Chase the rabbit too far.**
  - 7. Complicated visual aid.**
    - Enhance not distract
  - 8. Not praying**
  - 9. Didn't get to know my audience.**

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