

## Bible Study Small Group Guidelines

1. Our sessions are schedule in advance as to what lesson we will be discussing that day. Please refer to the schedule to know what lesson will be discussed that day. If you need a new schedule go to [www.lyndenfrc.org/women](http://www.lyndenfrc.org/women)
2. We encourage you to invite a woman to join us at any point in Bible study so they can hear the good news of Jesus Christ, even if it is on your way to Bible study! We want to be on mission to welcome others as Christ has welcomed us in to His family. Let your leader know if they need a study book or a Bible.
3. Text or call or e-mail your leader if you are unable to attend Bible Study. This allows your leader to keep in touch and pray for you.
4. We want to honor those who arrive on time to Bible Study, thus we will be starting at the designated time.
5. Our main focus will be on finding truth as we study the Bible. We will have time for prayer request and prayer during our small group time. We ask that you simply share your request but more importantly pray for that request in your group and at home.
6. The purpose of our discussion time is to give opportunity to tell of some of what you have discovered in your personal time in our lesson and to point each other towards Christ and the Word (the Bible). We will have authentic community if our group works together to follow a few simple guidelines.
  - If you have answered once, try to hold back until everyone has answered.
  - We ask that you have a written answer from your personal study time when you answer lesson questions in small group. We understand that you may not have complete a lesson from time to time. In these weeks, please come and join us! We want you there to hear what others have learned, participate in prayer time and activities like reading verses, etc.
  - We want to be focus on finding truth, our only source of Truth is found in the Bible. We want Bible study and our lessons to find our answers and focus in the Bible and pointing each other towards what Jesus Christ's life, death and resurrection.
  - Please keep personal application current. As you read your Bible ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and guide you as you read in a fresh and new perspective and application.
  - Be loyal to and avoid making an example of any individual, family member, friend, fellow believer or pastor in your discussion. This may be more hurtful than helpful.
  - No one will be forced to answer a question or to pray. We are all learning and none of us has all the answers. If there is a round table question & answer time, you may simply say "pass" if you do not want to answer. Your leader will kindly move to the next lady.

7. Prayer: Each week we will set aside time for prayer. We want to pray for you and the issues in your life. Please request focused on how we can pray for you or for you in a situation. The power of prayer is not in the “pray-er” but in the God who we pray to! Let us take these prayer request to Him in our small group and at home in our personal quiet time. Remember, prayer request are confidential! They are not to share with others in ANY way, whether actively or in passing. If your leader finds that this has happened, they will call you and discuss the importance of confidentiality and protecting one another’s trust.
8. God’s Word: We believe that Bible is the Word of God and want that to be our final authority and Truth during our studies. 2 Timothy 3:16 says “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,<sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”
9. Leadership accountability:
  - Being a leader is a responsibility not to be taken lightly. We carefully and prayerfully bring a woman into leadership. We look for a woman who is full of faith, dependent on God, compassionate, transparent, trustworthy, humble, sincere and attractive without being attracting. Your leader has a love for God, a heart for women and has made herself available to SERVE Christ and you.
  - But we, like you, are not perfect. If there is a concern or if something your leader has done or said is not Biblical then we ask you to graciously approach them in love. Matthew 18:15 “If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen take one or two others along.”
  - With this verse as our guide, we ask that you approach your leader first, after you do this or you do not feel comfortable doing this, we ask that you bring your concern to the current Bible Study Coordinator. (Tara Bajema) If your leader is Tara, then you can approach Chris Cline about your concern. Above all the unbelieving world will know we are followers of Christ by our love. This is the Biblical way of handling difficult situations. If you are unable to use this approach, then we ask you to keep the concern between you and the Lord.