

How to lead each Lesson

Before each Meeting

1. At least two days before the meeting, prepare the lesson yourself, as if you were the learner. Write your own answers to all questions. Don't take short-cuts.
2. Then, read the 'Aims' for the lesson. Our suggested aims are in a box, at the start of each lesson in this advisor's guide. For example, here are the Aims for lesson 9:

AIMS OF LESSON 9

For each member to:

- a. be sure that nothing can separate us from God's love
- b. understand that persecution will definitely happen but God uses it for our good
- c. learn to act wisely to avoid unnecessary persecution
- d. memorize 1 Peter 2:21

All these Aims have something for the members to do this week:

- 'be sure' is an *attitude*.
- 'understand' is an aspect of *knowledge*;
- 'learn to act wisely' is a *skill* to put into practice;
- 'memorize' is a good way to bring God's Word right inside their hearts and lives.

3. Next, read the Guidelines for this lesson. We have given you detailed guidelines to help you step-by-step. Choose those discussion questions which are relevant for your learner(s). Later, as you gain more experience, feel free to write your own discussion questions according to the needs of your members and the aims of the lesson.

4. Finally, pray for each member of the group. Ask God to help you be a good advisor.

During each Meeting

1. Welcome people as they arrive. Serve a drink if you wish.
2. Follow the steps in the box to start the meeting. For example, here are the starting steps for Lesson 9:

TO START THE MEETING

START WITH PRAYER

LAST WEEK'S PRACTICAL TASK

- Say: "Lesson 8's Practical Task was to do something to serve our community or a needy person or someone in authority. Did you do that, and how did the other person respond?" *[Ask each member in turn. If the other person was grateful for the help, that's good. But even if not, it doesn't matter, for we serve them for Christ's sake.]*

TODAY'S TOPIC

- Say: "Today's topic is persecution, and it is a very hard subject. Maybe our discussion will bring tears because of hurt we have experienced. But God uses persecution for good, and can heal our pain as we talk about these things."

LESSON REVIEW

- Turn together to Lesson 9 Review and ask what the learner(s) wrote:
Question 1: "for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps" (1 Peter 2:21).
Question 2: 1) world, hates; 2) God, persecution; 3) act foolishly; 4) Christ's steps

(Note: Please definitely check if the learner(s) completed the previous week's Practical Task. This shows them that this course is not just about learning truths but about putting them into practice. Also, it shows you how they are making progress in discipleship and where they still face challenges.)

3. Then lead the discussion, using the discussion questions you previously selected. If you run short of time, at least make sure you cover the questions marked 'for discussion' or 'personal response' in the course book. If you are not experienced in group discussion methods, read the guideline 'Leading Group Discussion'.

4. You as advisor should not speak too much of the time. Instead, the learner(s) should speak more. Therefore, whenever it comes to reading a paragraph from the course book or a passage from the Bible, it is better for a learner to read this out, not you.

5. In lessons 1-5, we have included some learning activities, and also some video clips to view online with the learner(s) if you wish (on a computer, tablet or smart phone). If you find good clips or learning activities to fit with lessons 6-20, please let us know about them.

6. At the end, follow the steps in the box to close the meeting. For example, here is the box at the end of lesson 9:

TO FINISH THE MEETING

ASK:

- “What difference will today’s lesson make in your life?” *[Each person should share, including you as advisor.]*

READ the Lesson 9 Practical Task.

SAY:

- “As you go through a verse each day, read it a few times, very slowly. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand how it can bring comfort to you in times of persecution.” “And do the home study for lesson 10.”

CLOSE IN PRAYER

- Ask different members to pray short prayers, thanking God for his strong promise in times of persecution. Pray for those suffering persecution in other countries, especially Christ’s followers of Muslim background.

After the Meeting

1. If your group has marks for tests or attendance, record these.
2. Consider if you led the discussion well. Ask yourself these four questions:
 - “Did I talk too much?”
 - “Did all members take part in discussion including the quiet and shy members?”
 - “Were my questions clear to understand and good for discussion?”
 - “Did the lesson fulfil its aims and was it practical for our lives?”

Learn from experience and try to improve any weak areas next week.

3. Keep praying for the learner(s) during the week.