

Introductory Meeting

Aims for each learner:

- Be excited about the course and committed to complete this week's home study.
- Understand how to do the home study for each lesson.
- Pay for their course book or promise to bring the money next week.

Prepare:

Obtain study guides for each student.

Opening

Introductions: If this is a new group, ask everyone to introduce themselves. They could say something about their life, work or family if appropriate. However, if some members prefer not to say too much till they trust the group, that's OK.

Open in prayer: Ask God to help us all benefit from doing this course together.

Explaining the Come Follow Me course

“What?” – the course content

Study Books: Give one Study Book to each learner.

Preferably they should pay something for the book, as they will value it more this way. But it is your choice whether to ask for money. For any non-readers or slow readers, see the section on oral learners in 'Frequently Asked Questions' in Part A of this Advisor Guide.

Open the study books to page v: Contents.

- Ask one member to read out the list of topics.
- Ask members to share in pairs which lessons they most look forward to, and why? Then they should share this with the whole group.

“Why?” – the course purpose

Course purposes:

- The purpose of this course is to help us grow as Christ's followers.
- We are all learners together, me as well as you. Together, we want to draw close to God, get to know him better, trust him, obey him and play our part in Christ's community.
- Explain: “One group of Afghans who studied this course together said ‘the strength of this book is that every brother and sister, young or old, has the opportunity to freely share their thoughts, questions, problems and pains – as they've experienced in their lives. It is this that makes the student interested and they open up, and can pray, not only for themselves but for others’.”
- Ask: “Are you looking forward to learning together like that Afghan group?”

“How?” – the course method

Open the study books to page iv and look together at the diagram.

- Explain: This course uses three methods in combination each week:
 - The home study** helps us remember and understand the teaching;
 - The discussion** helps us express our opinions and learn from others;
 - The practical task** helps us to obey the lesson in our daily lives.
- What is the purpose of each part: the home study, the discussion and practical task?
This question is to help the learner(s) understand the study method.

Open the study books to page vi: Guidelines for the learner.

- Each learner should read out one sentence.
- Ask if there is anything which anyone does not understand.

Looking at lesson 1

Open together lesson 1: Becoming Christ's follower (page 1).

- Read the first two paragraphs with the heading 'The purpose of our lives'. Also read the speech bubble which comes next.
- Ask in your own words, what is the purpose of your life? *Discuss. The learner(s) should give their own opinion. You as advisor should also share your opinion.*
- One person should read out question 2 then say the answer. Show how to check the answers at the end of the lesson.

Checking your answers:

- The book is your teacher. That is why it gives you the answers at the end of each lesson, so you can check your own answers. But this does not mean you should just copy from the book! First write your own answers, then check if you got them right.
- When the answer says 'personal response' or 'for discussion', there is no 'correct' answer because everyone has their own opinion or experience.

Questions for discussion:

- In Lesson 1 Answers, what answer does it give for question 5 or 13? *'Personal response'.*
- Does this mean you should leave these questions blank and not write anything? *No it doesn't mean this! Each member should still write their own opinion and be ready to talk about it in the discussion. Learners often skip writing these personal responses, which is why we stress it so much.*
- Why is it important to write our personal answers to such questions, and not leave them blank?" *When we write something, it makes us think more deeply about it. And we will remember it better. Also, we have something ready to share with others in the discussion*

Home study

Completing the study book lesson each week:

- Before our next meeting, please complete the whole of Lesson 1 in your own time.
- At the end, please do the Lesson Review. The questions in Lesson Review are a summary of the ones you have already answered in the lesson. Therefore we have not given you the answers. If you don't know the answers, revise the lesson again.

Conclusion

To finish the introductory meeting:

- Ask if anyone has any further questions.
- Explain the time and place of the next meeting.
- Remind learners to go through lesson 1 of the study guide before the next meeting.

Pray together:

Ask God to speak to each of us this week as we start this new course.