

At the first session together, take a few minutes to have each participant introduce themselves to the others. You might suggest that they share 2–3 answers to the following (choose a few of these that you think are interesting and most appropriate for your group)—

- their name,
- something they like, or think is interesting about themselves or their family,
- what they hope to learn from this study,
- why they came to this study (obviously this only applies if they chose to come),
- their favorite restaurant and why it is their favorite.

After the last lesson/session, you will recommend additional resources for either individual participants or your group to consider using for further study. Included will be links to informative articles, interesting podcasts, and titles and descriptions of several of our favorite books.

ASSUMPTIONS / AGREEMENTS

Your participants must be encouraged to wrestle these things out with God. Try to be clear that they must contend with what God’s Word says and that any disagreement they have need not be with you. If possible and appropriate, assure them that you will walk through this with them as they struggle to discover and obey the truth. Pray.

1. The Bible will be used as the basis and ultimate authority for what is and should be taught in these lessons. “All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16–17).
2. The leader respects our Statement of Faith (see appendix).
3. The leader will provide support and encouragement to each of the group’s participants by praying for them, loving them, and relying on the Holy Spirit for their conviction, salvation, and regeneration.
4. The leader will provide a safe environment for participants to question and wrestle with their understanding of God’s word and their reaction to it and what is presented.