

How to start and run a Jesus Story Group

1. **Gather:** Agree on a time (30 mins to 3 hours+) and location (home, workplace, restaurant, park, coffee shop, or any other place where people can naturally gather) as a couple, a family, a group of loved ones, or friends to engage with God and His Word, encourage one another, and to reach the lost.
2. **Prepare** to help everyone participate: All adults and children participate actively in various ways. Have someone share the story from God's Word, someone can lead Communion. *Everyone* can respond to the story, share encouragement and needs, and discover their spiritual gifts; and children learn that they are important members of God's family. (Children are sometimes very good at sharing Bible stories.)

Running a Jesus Story Group

Make everyone feel welcome and thank them for coming (and sometimes share a meal together), then:

1. Look Back:

- a. Pray: Give thanks to the Lord and invite Him to lead.
Question 1- *What is something you thankful for this week?*
Question 2- *What is something you struggled with this week?*
- b. Pray for one another
- c. Ask how people were able to obey and apply God's Word from last week, & who they shared with.
- d. Remind everyone why we gather: 1) Worship God, 2) Encourage one another, and 3) Prepare to reach the lost and make disciples.
- e. Sing a Psalm, or a worship song as appropriate, use musical instruments according to your context.

2. Look Up:

- a. The Word: Every time you meet, have someone prepare in advance to tell a story from God's Word. After they share the story, ask the group, "Was there anything that was left out or added to the story? Then try to retell the story as a group. Then have one or two try to tell it on their own. Then ask:
Question 3- *What do you learn about Jesus/God from the story?*
Question 4- *What do you learn about yourself/humans?*
Question 5- *What is there for you to apply in your life this week?*
(Or...How will you to obey or respond to this week?)

Optional/occasional: When everyone there is a believer, do a Bible story on Communion, then do Communion: Experience Jesus' presence together through communion. (Use one of the most common kinds of food in a meal in your culture; e.g. rice, bread, tortilla, biscuit, etc.; and a drink e.g. juice, tea, soda, wine, water, as elements of communion.) Have the head of the house where you meet, or someone designated to lead communion this week explain the meaning of communion: 1. The food: This is Jesus' body. He sacrificed his body because he loves us so much. And through his sacrifice we now have new life in Him. When we eat this food, we are taking in his love again. 2. The drink: This is Jesus' blood. His blood has the power to wash away our sins. When we drink this, we are reminded of His sacrifice for us. NOTE: If you have a meal together before or after the meeting, you may want to do communion at that time.

3. Look forward:

Question 6- Who can I share this story and/or my testimony with this week and gather into a group?

Question 7- What can we do to help someone this week?

Prayer fervently together as you send each other to live and share "Christ in you the hope of glory".

Stay in touch, and repeat regularly (weekly) so everyone know when to arrive.