

How to Get the Most from an LHM Bible Study

Purpose: (This how-to guide is a little different. Here we offer helpful suggestions for maximizing your experience with LHM Bible studies—from watching the videos, to using the discussion guides, to tapping into the online web links.)

Considerations:

1. First things first
 - a. Go to www.lhm.org/studies, and look through the many Bible Study options available. You have a variety of options for accessing the Bible Studies published by Lutheran Hour Ministries. Here you can download the discussion guides and videos, or you can watch the videos online for FREE! You can also purchase DVDs of the Bible Studies by visiting shoplhm.org.
 - b. In order to download any materials, you will need to set up a free account at lhm.org. (If you already have an account through Men's NetWork or other LHM programs with downloadable resources, the same login information will work throughout the lhm.org website.) Once you've registered, if you click on the "remember me" button, our site will remember you as long as you allow cookies.
 - c. Note: Each Bible Study has a variety of extra resources available for download, some include links for further research and offer downloads for promotional materials for getting the word out in your group. Make sure you click on each link to see everything available for your chosen study.

2. Doing your homework (2 weeks prior to the first Bible study session)
 - a. Before you print a hard copy to use in class, read through your discussion guide on your computer screen; get a feel for the author's approach and content. The sections are short; it won't take much time.
 - b. By viewing it on your computer screen, you can click on and explore the Web links, i.e. the [blue underlined text](#), found in the "Digging Deeper" section of each guide. Each one has loads of supplemental and entertaining info to increase your user experience. If you have access to a printer, you can make a hard copy of the guide as well.
 - c. Be sure to watch the video online before class.
 - d. By all means, jot down notes that seem relevant. Proactively doing so makes you more engaged during class (not to mention,

you'll look smarter); also, you'll better remember your insights or questions when class rolls around.

3. Reading the passages (Before each week's study)
 - a. Read the Bible passages; compare them to the version(s) you use, if different than the New International Version.
 - b. Consult a commentary for additional background information on the history, culture, sociology, environment, language, etc. of the Bible and its milieu. There are many available. One excellent text with supporting biblical information is the NIV Archaeological Study Bible. It's loaded with clarifying info: maps, sidebars, detailed explanations, excellent photographs and visuals, timelines, and more—all in a smartly laid-out format.
4. Answering the questions (Before each week's study)
 - a. Review the discussion guide questions in respect to the readings and write out your answers.
 - b. Try your hand at drafting a couple of additional questions you might like the group to respond to.
 - c. Consider the who, what, where, when, why, and how of a passage to get a fuller view of the text and the author's intention.
5. Excavate by digging deeper (Before and/or after each week's study)
 - a. Spend some time with the "Digging Deeper" sections by using the discussion guide on your computer. They provide related commentary and internet links supplementing the study's video and text.
6. For more information
 - a. At the end of many LHM Bible studies, additional web sites, books, periodicals, and other information sources are provided as well.