

Spiritual development

Key objective

To enable group members to study the bible together and learn to apply biblical principles to practical problems

TOOLS required

Guide our steps, bible studies in Mobilising the church and at the back of all guides, Facilitation Skills Workbook

Personnel required

Trainer able to share skills in facilitation and to build confidence in leading small group discussion. Facilitators with a reasonable biblical understanding and knowledge.

Anticipated outcomes

- Challenging the common approach to studying the bible, where biblical knowledge is only passed on by the pastor
- Christians with little experience of studying the bible individually equipped with tools that will give them confidence in reading their bibles
- Groups equipped with a simple method for small group bible study which does not assume prior biblical knowledge or additional resource material
- Groups able to discover the joy and power of understanding God's word to them today
- Servant leadership promoted.

Suggested approaches

- Select a series of bible studies from Guide our steps or PILLARS guides on a topic relevant to church life.
- Work through Mobilising the church using the integrated bible studies.
- Work through Mobilising the church, to encourage a church group to reflect on its identity as church and its role in the life of the community.

Case studies

- Discipleship Centre staff used PILLARS bible studies for group devotions during a training workshop. A Hindu staff member found the process so beneficial she insisted staff in the field office study the bible together every week.
- Women in the Deborah movement, Burkina Faso have used the bible studies at home with their families. Some husbands have become Christians as a result.
- Wolaitta – Many of the user groups are Christian and their main purpose for meeting is spiritual encouragement, so they are particularly interested in the Bible studies. Group Bible study is a new approach for them.