

4 KEYS TO A GREAT SMALL GROUP STUDY

1. **AN INTRODUCTION THAT GETS THEM INVOLVED.** Intro your subject matter in a way that gets your students talking and engaged in the subject. This could be a direct topic intro or indirect one that they don't see where it's going until you "spring it on them". This might be accomplished through a movie clip, a game, a set of questions they would be passionate about answering, a story they interact with, etc. But the key to having a great discussion is a great start. Spend time thinking about what works for your students here.
2. **KNOW YOUR BIBLE TEXT(S).** It's important that you do your homework on the passage of Scripture you're teaching. Know the context of what is before and after it. Do some research on the culture and times it was written in and teach it in a way that is relevant to the Spirit's intention and not out of context. This will keep you from teaching some crazy Bible truth you made up and also help you answer the crazy questions teen will bring forth.
3. **BE PRACTICAL.** A good study will help students to come to real conclusions about life and faith. Think in terms of the "so what" factor. After a student has been through this study, "So what?" So what should they do, think, or be as a result of this time. If you had to set a goal for them in just one change area, what would it be? How is this study going to help them accomplish or move toward that goal?
4. **HAVE SOLID GROUP INVOLVEMENT AND FOLLOW UP.** A good study will also have wide spread group involvement. It won't be just you talking and them listening. This means you need to think through good discussion questions, points of conflict you can spur their thinking in, and ways you can get them hands on interacting with the material. Also, as you continue in a study, it's good to follow up with how this week's study is tied to the learnings of previous weeks.