

Table Leader Training

1. Preliminaries

- a. Become familiar with the outline of the course
- b. Read the Gospel of Mark
- c. Prepare your personal story of coming to faith
- d. Spiritual preparation – prayer, confession, having a gospel mindset, etc.

2. Structure of a Session

- a. 6:00 Before the meeting – setup and prayer
- b. 6:30 Guests arrive for light snack
- c. 6:50 **Explore** (Bible Study using the Handbook)
- d. 7:10 **Listen** (video)
- e. 7:30 **Discuss**
- f. 7:55 Adjourn

3. The Room Setup and the Class

- a. Two or three leaders per table
- b. We will pray before guests arrive but will not pray openly during the session.
- c. Hospitality
- d. Facilitate discussion
- e. **Explore** – help guests to discover answers to the questions for themselves in Scripture (see I. below)
- f. **Listen** – note the outline in the handbook
- g. **Discuss** – listen well and interact based on the questions and table discussion

4. A Few Things to Think About

- a. Hospitality – help guests feel welcome and comfortable.
- b. Get to know guests and take an interest in them.
- c. Help guests know that their questions are important to us.
- d. Assume, initially at least, that our guests have little or no knowledge of the Bible.
- e. Avoid religious terminology that may intimidate a non-Christian such as election, predestination, eschatology, the rapture, dispensationalism, etc.
- f. Avoid church business, challenges, denominational issues, etc.
- g. Avoid political discussions.
- h. It is good to discuss the rich friendships we enjoy in our church and the activities we do together.
- i. Share something about your life.
- j. Words that are good: sin, repentance, righteousness, guilt, the cross, reconciliation, redemption, justification, cost of following Jesus, faith, belief, trust, salvation, judgment, wrath, transformation, etc.
- k. Keep conversations centered on the gospel as much as possible.
- l. During the **Explore** part of the evening, let guests answer the questions. Point them to answers in the Bible. This may mean some periods of silence. Leaders are to facilitate discussion.
- m. During the **Discuss** part of the evening, facilitate the discussion, share your own insights, and answer questions as best you can. Encourage guests to ask their big questions.
- n. If there are hard questions that you do not have an answer for, tell the person asking the question that you will try to find an answer to their question.

Seating Arrangement

