

THE TALEH LEADER GUIDE

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THINK DEEPER

Go Deeper

The background of the entire page is a scenic photograph of a mountain lake. In the foreground, the bow of a bright red canoe is visible, resting on a wooden dock. The lake's surface is calm, reflecting the surrounding green forest and the steep, rocky mountains in the distance. A large white rectangular box is centered on the page, containing the title and body text.

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THE PURPOSE OF A SMALL GROUP LEADER...

...is to empower his or her group to be
better readers of God's word.

*This means that a leader should always
guide his or her group to use a
theological-literary-historical lens to
study any given passage in Scripture.*

A leader does this by keeping the
passage as the focus; asking and inviting
questions that get at the heart of the
passage; and seeking application that is
based off the passage.

Suggested Format

in 3 Simple Steps

First, start the small group in prayer:

Pray for God to increase your desire to learn from His word; Pray for God to shed the light of the knowledge of His word upon you; Pray for your heart and mind to receive this knowledge and to delight in it; Pray that you will be ready to learn what God has to teach you and not just what you want to learn from a passage; and pray that God will empower you to know what to do with these truths, how to apply them to your life and to live them out.

Second, read the passage aloud as a group:

We even recommend reading a passage twice – once straight through and then a second time more slowly. In the second reading, try having the people in the group take turns reading one verse at a time and then summarizing that verse in 5–6 words. This will make sure that everyone understands the passage and that all the details make sense.

Third, provide a few of the Taleh questions listed below to facilitate deep and meaningful discussion on the passage:

The leader can pick and choose from this list. It is not necessary to discuss every question every week. Rather, it is the leader's job to decide which questions are most appropriate and will get at the heart of the passage

Taleh Questions

1) What is the historical or social context of the passage? Does it take place during a big event, like a holiday or festival? Is it the middle of the day? What city or country does it take place in? Does the context play a role in the meaning of the passage?

2) What is the chronology of the story or argument in the passage? How does the passage start? How does it end? What things have changed, transformed or developed throughout the passage?

3) Are there images or objects mentioned in this passage (e.g., a tree, a jar, water etc.)? What purpose do these images/objects serve? Are they just facts in the story to help move the plot along or do they have deeper (symbolic) meaning?

4) How is God the Father, Jesus or the Holy Spirit described in the passage? Is God given other names? When and how does He appear? What does He say? What does He do? What do these divine descriptions tell us about God?

5) How are humans (men, women or both) described in the passage? Are humans seen in a positive or negative light? Are they living in obedience or disobedience to God? What connections can we make between the humans in the passage and our own lives?

6) Can you make any connections between the passage at hand and other passages in the Bible? For example: Is the current passage making reference to something said or done in another book of the Bible? If so, what are the similarities and differences between the two passages? What is the significance in the connection between these two passages?