



Top Tips for Leading On-Line Bible Studies (OBS) 1.0 COVID-19 and Beyond!

1. Keep it small.

Aim for 8-10 people in the group. If interest is higher than this after the first meeting, form two or three groups that meet at different times, providing more alternatives for people.

2. Set up a face-to-face, real-time group using a meeting platform.

You will need to gather email addresses and send out invitations to join your group using your meeting platform tools. Your invitation note may include the encouragement for recipients to invite others to attend by forwarding the meeting URL to a friend.

3. Lead as a Team

Work together as a UMT, if possible. Assign each UMT member specific roles within the meeting space. For example, the Religious Affairs Specialist may provide technical support by managing the meeting platform space, including audio, video, and chat feature pre-tests, welcoming in participants, and responding to technical questions that pop in the chat feature. The Chaplain is then freer to lead the study and engage with learners. Both UMT members should regularly check chat!

4. Prep Sound & Light

Keep the static down! Encourage everyone to use headphones or earphones. Group members with computers that do not have built-in microphones will need headphones with a microphone. Be seen in your best light! Set your computer so you are facing a window. If it's too bright, use a shade.

5. Engage the whole person.

Body: This may be OBS 2.0, but think of adding in music and visual aids to tap the senses.
Mind: It's ok to go deep, but be brief. Shorten your usual content by 40-50%.
Spirit: Take prayer requests through the chat feature to start or end the meeting.



Teach for Relationship: COVID-19 physical distancing has people feeling isolated. Your Bible study is a way for people to connect with God, you, and other group members. Remember that lectures build knowledge, while discussions build relationships, so include plenty of discussion in your study. The key to good discussion is preparing helpful questions. Prepare at least 3 questions in advance.

Warm Up: Start with simple fact questions. Who? Where? When? What?

Dive In: Move on to analysis questions. Similarities & differences? Reasons?

Deep Dive: Finish with value questions. Personal take-aways? Life lessons?

Just Say No to Yes/No Questions.....

Unless your meeting platform has a survey tool. If so, you can ask a yes/no survey question followed by the opportunity for participants to further explain their answers.