



## Helpful Information & Suggestions to Optimize Men's Online Bible Study Sessions\*

### Using Zoom:

1. For most of us this tool is new. Expect it to be awkward at first; not only for participants but for the teachers and facilitators as well. Expect our use of this format to grow and change; be ready to adapt as we evolve.
2. Your suggestions and feedback are both welcomed and necessary. During the session you can text (using the chat window in Zoom) to make suggestions and to ask questions.
3. Help is available; many people (some behind the scenes) stand ready to help and assist you to be able to enjoy and be blessed from studying God's Word online together. Don't hesitate to reach out for help of any kind (whether technical, spiritual, or prayer support.)
4. Please be on time or be early. There will be at least 10 minutes before the start time of 7:00pm to sign in and have some conversations with one another. Facilitators will help with login issues and teaching will aim to start no later than 7:05pm. Beforehand, take steps to make sure you will be free of distractions.

### Group Guidelines:

1. Our regular practices at live Bible studies will continue in our online sessions, we:
  - a. silence our cellphones (please do this prior to joining the video conference,) then
  - b. are always respectful of one another's sharing and pledge confidentiality; and we
  - c. will open in prayer mindful of Who has gathered us together in His name and for His purposes.
2. When sharing is appropriate, we:
  - a. share one at a time
  - b. share appropriately to the format being used. The format can and will vary from one teacher or session to another or even within the same session. The discussion leader might ask for a response; or he may alert you to times especially meant for an open forum or even conduct "breakout group discussions" (like our table discussions when we are gathered in person.) Having times to share praise reports or prayer requests and pray together for one another will typically remain a part of our format.
  - c. try to share in sentences rather than paragraphs. (Facilitators are trying to keep the session on schedule and teachers are trying to ensure that the message our Lord has for us is in this session is fully communicated and understood.)
  - d. try to stay focused on the passage at hand and avoid sharing that takes us off-topic.

### To get the most out of this (or any) Bible study:

1. First and foremost: Pray, asking, and then leaning on the Holy Spirit and allowing Him to work in you for understanding, to discover the inner heart meaning He wants to instruct you in, and for His strength and courage to obey and apply His will in your life.
2. Preparation before a session will magnify your growth opportunities in the session. Follow up study after each session will help cement His teaching in your life.
3. Taking notes; keeping your study folder up to date; and keeping a journal are all things that "pupils" (what the word "disciple" translates to) report have enhanced their learning. Practice using the study tools that have been taught on your Bible reading whenever possible.
4. Work towards exercising the spiritual disciplines (we've studied in previous meetings) that demonstrate discipleship, especially in the area of handling God's Word.
5. Sharing what you have learned of Him with others builds one another up, pleases God, and brings eternal rewards (perhaps beyond what you can imagine now.)

\* For questions, help, or support, feel free to contact Bill Kugel. Email: [w.kugel@yahoo.com](mailto:w.kugel@yahoo.com) Phone or text: 603-387-4163