

YOU CAN BE
A
Loving
Witness

*We Believe You Can
Lead A Small Group
Outreach Bible Study*

— LEAD + LOVE —



One of the most effective ways you can share your faith with friends who do not yet believe is by inviting to explore what the Christian faith is all about by inviting them to participate in an outreach bible study. Many find this is a daunting task which comes with many questions and hesitations...Am I equipped? Could I actually do that? We have created this plan to help answer those questions and convince you that we can help you get your own group started. Here are some answers to some of the main questions that you might have about leading your own outreach study.

» What would we study?

We recommend using the study Christianity Explored. Here are some things we like about Christianity Explored: It is well laid out, asks good questions, uses short videos that are well done and helpful, it balances depth with realistic prep time for leaders and participants, and we have gotten great feedback from many in our church that have used it. To look over the CE curriculum, contact outreach@uptownchurch.org.

» How long is the study?

The study is 8 sessions, plus an intro meeting. Some might think that starting an outreach study commits you to leading a study for years and years. Your commitment could be limited to do the outreach study with the intention of helping any new believers find a good church!

» When would we meet?

This all depends on your schedule and that of your target audience. The most common time slots to choose from are:

- **Breakfast or lunch:** Meeting over a meal has its challenges, but then again, everyone has to eat and sometimes eating while you are discussing deep subjects can be helpful.
- **Evening:** Often evenings are busy times, but is there one night of the week that is commitment free that you could give up for 8 weeks to make an eternal investment for people?

- **Mid-Morning or afternoon:** A neighborhood study for stay at home moms might be able to do mid-morning or afternoon. Alternatively, you might meet every other week, or even once per month.

» Who will come?

We have found it is really helpful to have a mix of strong believers and those that are interested in learning more in the same group. Therefore, we suggest 2-3 Uptown members come together and each find 1-3 friends to participate. Would your prayer triad be interested in giving this a shot? See the back of this page for a more detailed plan/process for gathering a group.

» How much will it cost?

Study materials, food, location costs...That can add up fast. We are ready to reimburse up to \$500 for each outreach bible study that gets started up. This amount is intended to cover all of your costs (curriculum, food, space rental)!

» Where would we meet?

Once again this depends on your target audience, but start with the part of town which would be best to gather this group. Consider what ties this group together: work? a neighborhood? different friendships with the leader? a shared interest? Then consider these options:

- **Home or Office:** Is there a home or office close to your target location that you could use? We know of some offices (including the church and other small businesses around uptown) that might be available, let us know if we can help.
- **Restaurant:** Think of a location that would work that also will meet your needs for space. Additionally consider: is the environment conducive to discussion? Is there a private room?
- **Rented Space:** We have looked into a number of new office solutions that rent out space on an “as needed” basis (WeWork, Level Office). Bringing light food like chicken biscuits into a boardroom in a space like this could be a great solution!



Interested in leading a group? Email: outreach@uptownchurch.org

>> Steps for Gathering a Group

- 1 Prayerfully consider whether you will lead this group on your own or with another believer (We highly recommend the partnership route).
- 2 Pray and contact a broad range of people asking if they would be interested in participating in a study to learn more about Christianity at some point. We have found many people say yes to this non-threatening invitation if there is no plan in place. Make note of those that are interested.
- 3 Contact all of those interested to see if they could plug into the group you are about to start (giving general starting date/duration, location, plan/expectations).
- 4 For those interested, gather availability for time and locations.
- 5 Contact the group about starting date, location, time and get final commitment.
- 6 Start with a pre-study meeting to get to know one another, explain the plan and pass out the materials.

>> Meeting Place Options

Here are some quiet and convenient locations to consider in and around Uptown Charlotte:

Rented space: WeWork (Uptown), Level Office (Uptown)

Restaurants ideas in and around Uptown: 7th Street public market (Uptown), Amelie's (Uptown), Panera (Uptown), Rhino Market and Deli (West side of Uptown), The Famous Toastery (Uptown and Dilworth locations), 1900 Mexican Grill (Midtown)