

towards ► belief

Introduction to Bible Studies

Welcome to the Towards Belief Bible Studies.

These notes are designed for use by Christians who want to go 'a bit deeper' than the notes in the Towards Belief Discussion Guide. They could also be used as a follow up series of studies for those people who are enquiring more about Christian faith. Each bible study are a suggested outline. As a leader, you will know the members of your group and be able to structure your time together accordingly. Focus on the questions you believe are most relevant to your group and skip over those which may not be of interest or when you are running out of time.

You may want to make use of the Towards Belief Handouts also available in the Resources section of the website. These give the participants many of the highlight quotes from each episode and are helpful to refer to as they are watching the DVD and for the discussion/bible study time after.

If you are leading a group which is new or formed specifically for a Towards Belief campaign, be sensitive to each person's level of bible understanding and Christian knowledge.

Below is a suggested outline. There is a lot of material in each study which you may not have time to work through so plan well prior to your time together.

SUGGESTED OUTLINE

1. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Especially if the group is new or you have new members joining you for the duration of Towards Belief.
- b. Encourage participants to commit to being there each week.
- c. Confidentiality – what is said in the group stays in the group. Encourage openness & a trusting environment
- d. Pray for and contact each other during the week.

2. Icebreaker & Prayer

- a. Share your name and another two things about yourself OR share a personal experience that might relate to the topic (will depending on whether this is a new or existing group).
- b. Open in prayer

3. Study

Each study then starts with an introduction to the topic, followed by quotes from the DVD, bible references and questions all grouped under headings which focus on the topic's themes.

4. Sharing and Prayer

It is important to remember that some of these topics may stir some very deep and personal experiences for the participants, particularly suffering and church abuse. As the group leader, be very sensitive to this and talk to your church pastor or counsellor if you think its appropriate and/or necessary for follow up, remembering to keep your group discussion confidential. Seek a person's permission before referring them to professional help.

NOTE: Thank you to John Hopping, Associate Pastor at Reedy Creek Baptist Church, Gold Coast Queensland who prepared these bible studies for his church.