

For Discussion Leaders

Using *Compass Point*

As a “self-contained” interactive study guide for young adults, *Compass Point* is not dependent on other publications. If you choose to do so, you can use it — in combination with the Bible, of course — without purchasing any other literature. You will, however, need a copy of *Compass Point* for everyone who participates.

If you are the discussion leader for a group using *Compass Point*, DiscipleGuide recommends that you proceed as follows.

First, prepare yourself for each session in advance.

1. Prayerfully read the *Direction* Bible text and the key verse given on the second page of the *Compass Point* study guide.
2. Look to *Destination* on the opening page of the *Compass Point* study guide to pinpoint the message to be derived from the Bible text and key verse.
3. For further background and related teaching directly from Scripture, read the daily Bible readings listed at the end of the *Compass Point* study guide.
4. Once you are familiar with these Bible passages, read through the session’s pages in *Compass Point*. As you do so, underline the truths that speak most emphatically to needs in the lives of the group members you lead. Write out your own answers to the *Discovery* questions in the margin. Also jot down notes and additional discussion questions that will assist you in leading a truly *interactive* Bible study.

When your study group comes together, build the session on the framework featured in *Compass Point* as follows.



Destination

Purpose: Focus on the message of the study and its relevance to the group member.

Procedure: Begin by asking everyone to write and then share aloud answers to the *Destination* question on the opening page. Guide the discussion to focus the minds of group members on the life need presented in the remaining *Destination* paragraph(s).



Direction

Purpose: Seek guidance for life from God’s Word.

Procedure: Call on one or more group members to participate in reading the *Direction* Bible text aloud while others follow the reading in their own Bibles. Lead the class in reading the key verse aloud in unison.

Depending on the nature of the study theme and the Bible text, you may choose to read the Bible text in segments for better comprehension. Remember that group members will refocus their attention at the beginning of each reading, so the segmented approach will keep them more alert to the content and wording of Scripture. Scripture references in topic headings (and even in paragraphs under topic headings) will give you clues to natural breaks in the Bible text.



Discovery

Purpose: Lead group members in interacting with the Bible text and one another, with a focus on the session theme.

Procedure: After the Bible reading (or, better, sandwiched between readings of segments of the text), read aloud the *Discovery* question(s) printed in the side margin in *Compass Point*. Pause after each question to allow students to write answers, and then call for sharing and discussion. Be sure to make direct references to Scripture and to concepts in the commentary in *Compass Point* as the group shares insights. Redirect the conversation when necessary to keep it focused on the topic at hand, yet cultivate an openness to ask questions, make observations, and apply truth to real life today.



Determination

Purpose: Help group members decide on specific applications for personal growth and life change.

Procedure: Reserve a significant block of time for group members to share their reactions to the questions on the last page in the session's study guide. In doing so, exercise discretion as you encourage voluntary responses without pushing for verbal answers that some would consider too personal. Aim for transparency without intimidation.

Conclude by inviting the group to determine one to three actions all of them can take to apply the scriptures they have studied together. Lead everyone to write specific action decision(s) on the compass design in the margin of the *Determination* page.

Wrap up the session with prayer regarding life needs that have been expressed during the study session. And don't forget to encourage everyone to spend more time at home reviewing what they have studied, applying their *Determination* decisions, reading ahead for the next session (including its daily Bible readings), and jotting notes on the next session's *Discovery* questions.

Leader Resources

Although you can use *Compass Point* effectively in isolation from other literature, there are publications that offer you tools and ideas for varying the pace of your group sessions and reinforcing truth with alternate methods. They include:

The *Compass* student quarterly is repeated in large measure in *Compass Point*, so you need not purchase copies of it along with *Compass Point*. If any of your group members have limited vision, however, you may want to purchase the large print *Compass* for them.

Compass Teacher contains lesson plans for more-traditional Sunday School classes, but you can easily adapt some of its teaching activities to the interactive format that *Compass Point* aims for.

Compass Resources contains printed visuals for the studies included in *Compass Point*. Some of them will stimulate greater participation in your group's discussions.

The *Compass E-Kit* is a CD with PowerPoint slides, handouts, and electronic versions of *Compass* and *Compass Teacher* for viewing on a computer monitor and for copying and pasting into teaching notes.

If you need to build your skills in leading interactive Bible study, search for books on "small groups," "leader resources," "discussion," etc., on Web sites or bookstores that market Christian resources. There are a number of such resources listed on DiscipleGuide's Web site (www.DiscipleGuide.org). These are resources for small group leaders recommended by DiscipleGuide's Christian education consultant. To view these resources, go to the home page, click on the Pastors/Leaders tab, click on Teacher Resources, then click on Teacher/Leader Growth.

As you lead Christians in studying and applying His Word, may He build a strong relationship between you and the young adults you work with. And may He make your studies together truly interactive, vibrant, and relevant.