

# Facilitating a GTBS Small Group Discussion

To **facilitate** means *to make something easy or easier to do* and a **facilitator** is one who organizes and aids in the process of **helping a group have a discussion**. To facilitate a lesson means that you will help your small group discuss the lesson by **guiding your group through the questions, being watchful of the time and moving things along when appropriate.**

**To facilitate does NOT mean you will “teach” or even know what all the answers are. You are simply going to guide the discussion by asking others to read and answer questions. ANYONE can facilitate!**

**Below are some guidelines to help the facilitator organize and guide the discussion:**

**Do the lesson yourself at home, starting as early in the week as possible** so that you have enough time to thoughtfully reflect on the questions. Pray for your group and pray for your ability to facilitate.

After you have completed the lesson, you may want to check out the **Facilitator's Guide** on the website under the **Lesson Link** on the website ([growingtogetherbiblestudy.com](http://growingtogetherbiblestudy.com)). These guides will be posted sometime on the weekend, before Tuesday's small group meeting. There is also a **Leader Guide** located at the back of the study guide.

**Ask someone (preferably ahead of time) to open in prayer.**

**Decide how you will begin the Lesson.** Have someone read the introduction and if you use the “**Clearing the Cobwebs**” question, it's always a good idea to answer the question yourself, and then ask others to share their answers. You may want to use a comment or question of your own. **The key thought for the lesson is contained in the verse under the title of the lesson.** Ask what this verse tells us about God's will.

**Decide how the Scripture for the lesson will be read aloud.** You may want your group to share different translations of the Scripture that is used.

**Discuss the lesson by asking different members to read the questions aloud** (perhaps going around the circle). Tell the women that they don't have to answer the question that they read. Wait for someone else to answer it. You can go quickly through the questions that have obvious answers and spend more time on questions that promote more discussion. Ask someone **to read the quotes in the lesson** and ask the group to respond to what was read.

**Keep things moving when necessary by asking someone to read the next question.** If someone asks a question, the facilitator is **not** responsible to answer it. Instead, ask your group, “What do you all think?”

**Be aware of the time and be ready to bring the discussion to a close a few minutes before 11:00.**

**Decide ahead of time how you will close the discussion time.** If you have time, consider the “**Digging Deeper**” section and the “**Ponder & Pray**” and “**Trinkets to Treasure**” sections are good ways to end.

Again, you may want to ask someone ahead of time to close in prayer.

Remember, **anyone can facilitate the lesson.** Your small group coordinator(s) will always be willing to help in any way they can. Facilitating can be fun and rewarding and it's a great way to serve the others in your small group. You might even want to **work with a partner during the week** and share the job of facilitating.

Thank you for helping out!