



RAFIKI

Suggestions for Rafiki Bible Study Group Leaders

Thank you for your willingness to be a GROUP Leader using the Rafiki Bible Study material.

We claim God's promise in Isaiah 55:10-11: *"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth. It shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."*

Rafiki is grateful to God that he has provided this Bible study to us that we might share it with others. The study of God's Word is key to knowing God. As Dr. David Wells noted, "It is through his Word that God addresses us. It is his Word that instructs us, illumines our path, and nourishes our soul. This is why Rafiki put together this Bible study. Its aim is that we might learn to think our thoughts after God and walk in his ways. It is the most extensive, thorough, and edifying Bible study that I know about. I am delighted to be able to commend it." - DAVID F. WELLS DISTINGUISHED SENIOR RESEARCH PROFESSOR AT GORDON CONWELL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

What is an RBS GROUP?

An RBS GROUP is a group of 5-15 people who want to meet in a home, church, or other place using the Rafiki Bible Study lessons. The RBS GROUP lessons are an in-depth Bible book-study for those who are serious about wanting to know God, what the Bible says, and are willing to spend 90 minutes together once a week. The lessons are free to groups through a qualified GROUP Leader.

Lessons consist of printed notes with questions for discussion and a suggested commentary written by someone other than the writer of the notes on the book being studied. GROUP members are also encouraged to use Crossway's Systematic Theology Study Bible where over 300 doctrines are briefly explained within the text. (These Bibles can be purchased from the Crossway website or ordered from Rafiki at a discounted price.) Any GROUP member who diligently studies these lessons in this way will receive the equivalent of a seminary course in that book of the Bible.

Lessons are not sent to individuals but those interested in starting a RBS GROUP should contact Rafiki at:

Rafiki Foundation

P.O. Box 1988

Eustis FL, 32727-1988

Phone 352-483-9131

Email: RBSGroups@rafikifoundation.org

www.RafikiFoundation.org

The RBS GROUP material has three main goals:

1. To provide GROUPS with an in-depth, disciplined study of the Bible.
2. To encourage GROUP members to read and study the Bible every day.
3. To provide opportunity to strengthen mission work by becoming involved in the work of Rafiki.

Opportunity for Bible Study

Each GROUP Leader will be provided with lessons, and questions. There will also be a suggested commentary you might like to read along with the lessons. There is no charge for the lessons, but members will be asked to agree to the RBS GROUP AGREEMENT (please see?).

Groups should meet every week for the number of lessons in the book you are studying plus one more meeting for the Introduction meeting—so if the Proverbs lessons are 6 weeks long, then plan on 7 weeks of meetings.

Groups should consist of from 5 to 15 members to ensure quality discussion.

The meeting should last 90 minutes and will follow this schedule:

- 15 minutes for fellowship and light refreshment
- 15 minutes for prayer, announcements, etc.
- 1 hour for discussion of the questions

Provide name tags to help group members learn each other's names.

Begin and end the discussion of the questions on time. As you persist in beginning on time, individuals who are habitually late will hopefully grow in this discipline.

Completing the lesson is also important, giving time to cover all the questions. Plan your time accordingly, deciding ahead of time how much time to allot for each question. It is helpful to put the clock time by a couple of the questions which can serve as a guide to you as you lead, making you aware if you are behind.

Participation of every GROUP Member is important but members should be asked to not participate in the discussion if time has not been given to work on the lesson. This provides individuals the opportunity to listen and learn from others and relieves them of any pressure to answer when they are unprepared.

Be aware of individuals who are having difficulty answering the questions and offer encouragement and assistance.

Two areas that are pitfalls for leaders of small groups:

- Silence when no one wants to answer. Become comfortable with those times, encouraging answers and even being willing to go to the next question.
- Teaching instead of waiting for the group members to answer. It is a proven fact that the more the leader talks; the less the group will talk. The group can become a time of sit and soak rather than study and grow. Of course, if untruth or wrong doctrine is being spoken, it is expected that as leader you take the opportunity to offer correction and instruction.

Introduction Meeting

The first time your groups meets will be the **Introduction Meeting**.

At this meeting the leader will do the following:

- Allocate 15 minutes for fellowship and light refreshment
- Explain about Rafiki—use the brochure provided and review the description of how people can serve. There is also a video on Rafiki's website that you may show.
- Also take time to talk specifically about the Widows Program—use the brochure provided. We have also enclosed a discount coupon for online purchases for members in your group to use. The Rafiki Exchange website address is <https://store.rafikifoundation.org>.
- Remind the group members that because Rafiki provides the material at no cost for the Bible study, information will be included in the packet of lessons about Rafiki's work. The hope is that members will give to the work of Rafiki through prayer and monetary contribution to the Rafiki general fund as well

as to investigate how to be involved in mission work. Be ready to assist members in these ways.

- As a convenience Rafiki has provided an envelope so that any contributions that members wish to make can be collected at the meeting and sent back. In addition, giving online has been streamlined, you may direct people to the Rafiki website and to donate toward the general fund.
- Review these guidelines with the group members:
 - The group will begin and end each week on time.
 - Encourage members to read the Bible passages from the lesson and suggest they try and do some of the questions each day.
 - Participation of every GROUP Member is important but members should be asked to not participate in the discussion if time has not been given to work on the lesson. This provides individuals the opportunity to listen and learn from others and relieves them of any pressure to answer when they are unprepared.
 - The first night, there is no discussion (because the group has not had the material to review yet) group members get only the questions on the first lesson—no notes. They will get the notes on that lesson and questions for the next lesson the following week.
- Please be sure you submit the list of group members and their email addresses (and snail mail addresses if possible) to RBSgroups@rafikifoundation.org so that we can update our mailing list. Providing the names and emails of group members may also be done online by going back to the sign up document you received in an email.

Other Opportunities

As a leader you should be prepared to explain the plan of salvation and to look for opportunities to help individuals to enter into a personal relationship with Christ.

In addition, as group members grow in their relationship with the Lord, this will provide the opportunity for strengthening mission work.

Use the prayer time to share prayer requests and to pray for each other. Special prayer for Rafiki should always be included.