

Leaders' Guide

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HOSTING A *TEN KEYS* COURSE IN YOUR HOME

Your home is a perfect environment for hosting a *Ten Keys* study. You might consider teaming up with a neighbor or friend to share the responsibilities. One person can host while the other is responsible for leading the discussion.

INVITE YOUR GROUP MEMBERS

One of the best ways to invite people to the *Ten Keys* study is to give them a copy of the *Ten Keys for Unlocking the Bible* book. This leaders' kit includes one copy and an order form to purchase additional copies at a reduced price. You can also obtain copies of the study guide for each participant. The ideal group size is between six and twelve people. If your goal is to reach seekers or beginners, it is best if most of the members of the group fit that category. Otherwise the seekers may hesitate to share the real questions and concerns they have.

If you hope to include couples with families, you will need to plan for the children. The easiest option is for couples to be responsible for finding child-care providers on their own. Another option is to simply hire a sitter to watch the kids in another part of the house. You could also recruit a few people who will run a *Ten Keys* program for the children at the same time. Ideas and lesson plans can be found on the *Ten Keys for Unlocking the Bible* web site at www.tenkeys.info.

PLAN YOUR EVENING

Here are two suggestions for structuring your time. Remember, these are just ideas. You should decide which format fits you best.

<u>MEAL SERVED</u>		<u>SNACK OR DESSERT SERVED</u>	
Meal together:	30 minutes	Conversation with beverages:	10 minutes
Setting the Scene:	5 minutes	Setting the Scene:	5 minutes
Video presentation:	25 minutes	Video presentation:	25 minutes
Discussion:	30 minutes	Snack/dessert served:	10 minutes
		Discussion:	30 minutes

CREATE AN INVITING ATMOSPHERE

Make sure the room is comfortable and free from distractions. Build in time to get to know one another before the actual study begins, either during the meal or over refreshments. Remind group members that discussion is an important part of the study and that you want them to feel comfortable sharing their opinions and questions.

Establish a few ground rules on the first night to foster this kind of atmosphere. We recommend these three: (1) Everyone's opinions and thoughts are valid and will be respected. (2) Nothing personal that is shared will leave the group. (3) No one needs to feel any pressure to share.

PREPARE FOR THE STUDY

In preparation for the study, preview the video and the "Following Along" section in this study guide. Try to anticipate some of the questions your group members might have. Also, look over the discussion questions beforehand. Think about *your* answers to the questions and what follow-up questions you might want to include to encourage further discussion.

BRING THE STUDY TO A CLOSE

Close your time together in prayer. Don't put anyone on the spot by expecting them to pray. As group members become more comfortable with one another, consider asking for prayer requests. Then include the

requests in your closing prayer. And, of course, pray regularly for all of your group members. You may want to use a Scripture such as Colossians 1:10–11 as a guide.

You may find that participants want to hang out together after the study. This will give you an opportunity to touch base with group members to see what is on their minds. Some of your most significant conversations may come during this time or other informal conversations outside the group.

The *Ten Keys* study gives you great opportunity to help your friends and neighbors discover the life-changing message of the Bible. May God bless your study richly!