

## Home Group Bible Study

### Synopsis:

For many Christian believers, Bible Study offers an opportunity to develop spiritually by focusing on God's Word as revealed in the sacred Scriptures. A Home Group Bible Study is here a small number of believers gather together to read, discuss, share and pray in the informal setting of a home. The informal setting encourages women and men to make links between their everyday lives and their spiritual journeys. The reading of the Bible is important because it helps to shape the values, attitudes, goals and practices that group members claim as their own.

Home Group emphasizes the fact that the life of faith is one that is practiced collectively. Group members share food, stories, and personalized understandings of the teachings of the Bible. They ask questions of each other and model for one another what it means to be a follower of the Christian tradition. The Home Group depicted in this photo essay meets for two hours once a week for a series of 6-8 weeks, two or three times a year. They share supper together and then study "the Word." Collectively they decide what book of the Bible they will study for their next series.

In some ways the group is very traditional, but in other ways it is very modern with an increased use of technology for contacting each other and for the spiritual journey too. Though some members bring a leather-bound copy of the Bible, others use their smartphones. The study leaders prepare their notes on a laptop and all members check their digital diaries when next events need to be arranged. A copy of the Bible on their hand-held device means that they are only a click or two away from accessing spiritual help. Their church services too incorporate the use of technology, including an app that enables downloading of the Scriptures and the sermon outline for any given Sunday.

The photo essay is meant to depict ways in which men and women learn, grow, share and support each other as part of their spiritual practice.