



BEFORE YOU BEGIN...

1. How is *The Great Adventure* set up?

Four key components go into making *The Great Adventure* “great”:

1. Home Preparation with Study Set Questions
2. Small Group Dynamic
3. DVD Lectures
4. Review of Study Set Responses

Each of these four components plays an essential role in *The Great Adventure* learning process, and they are carefully designed to build upon one another and to fit together in a particular order. The Study Set Questions are designed to bring people into the story; the small group weaves voices and perspectives into the questions to build understanding; the DVD lecture is planned specifically to follow the home preparation and small group discussion and recaps what has been learned, bringing people deeper into personal understanding of how the Scriptures relate to their lives; and the Study Set Responses provide guidance to the facilitators and give commentary for future study and review. All four aspects, when utilized together, result in a more fruitful experience. As the experience of thousands has shown, using these four key components of a *Great Adventure* study as directed will draw you and your participants into a living and life-changing relationship with God in His Word.

2. What is the “Small Group Dynamic”?

The small group dynamic is an essential part of a *Great Adventure* study. Fellowship (or *koinonia*) with one another is paramount in *Great Adventure* studies. While the DVD lecture lays out God’s plan, the small group dynamic helps participants make that plan part of their lives by engaging in a discussion of the Study Set Questions and learning from one another.

Often, this small group dynamic proves to be one of the greatest added benefits of the study. This type of faith sharing in the Body of Christ helps build community and strong relationships, and it strengthens each person greatly on many levels, so much so that they couldn’t imagine the study without it.

3. What is the role of a facilitator?

A facilitator is not a teacher. In the small group dynamic, the facilitator has the key role of directing the discussion and keeping it on point. The facilitator does not need to have all the answers. (Nobody does!) The following characteristics should be found in those you ask to serve as facilitators:

- Dependable
- Faithful to the Church
- Good listeners
- Good people skills; able to draw out those participants who are reluctant to share
- Recommended by your pastor or parish DRE

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Some view the role of facilitator as somewhat daunting, believing that one needs to be very knowledgeable on all biblical and theological issues. To counter this perception, emphasize that the facilitator's main responsibility is merely to act as a sort of group "host" and keep the discussion going. This makes people more eager to facilitate.

4. How are the Study Set Responses used?

The Study Set Responses are primarily a resource for the facilitator to help guide the discussion and keep the group on track. In addition, the Responses provide a comprehensive review for participants to be used prior to an upcoming lesson or in the future. The Responses should not be seen as definitive "answers" but as tools to offer some insight; they are a guide.

Do not distribute the Responses to participants prior to the small group discussion! Otherwise, the group will be cheated out of struggling with the text and they will ultimately miss out on the greatest value of these studies: a living, personal encounter with Christ in His Word. In addition, the group discussion will fall flat if everyone comes in with the same answer.

After a particular lesson has been completed, the facilitator should then pass out the Responses to the group as a review tool. This is an excellent way to conclude each lesson.

5. Where to begin?

The first steps are:

- Pray. Ask God to bless your efforts in leading others to His Word.
- Put together a core team of enthusiastic faith filled people. Have them pray also.
- Work with your pastor and/or DRE. (Ascension Press has a full range of materials that explain *The Great Adventure* Bible Study System. Call 610-696-7795, ext. 204 and speak with one of our Group Study Specialists. A CD presentation, "What's So Great About *The Great Adventure*," which presents the methodology and pedagogy of *The Great Adventure*, will give you answers to some commonly-asked questions.)
- Choose a study. (A *Great Adventure* Bible Study consultant can help you with this and with a long term plan. Call 1-800-376-0520.)
- Determine a location to hold your study. You will want to ensure you have enough room for small groups to break out, as well as a larger area for the group to come together to watch the DVD.
- Read the Leader's Guide and get a thorough explanation of how to run a successful study.

6. Who should be on your core team?

The people you invite to be on your core team will help you build the foundation of your study. For that reason, you will want to invite people who are:

- Faith filled and eager to learn more
- Enthusiastic and happy to invite others
- Dependable, reliable, and hard working

Some of the best core team members are people just like you, people who have a passion for studying and reading Scripture and who are eager to share that passion with others. We suggest dividing the responsibilities among the various members of your core team, assigning each person to oversee a specific responsibility. Some suggested categories are: administrative, registration, logistics, facilitator coordinating and ongoing training, marketing, and materials.



7. What kind of support does *The Great Adventure* offer to leaders of the studies?

Knowing what goes into running a successful *Great Adventure* study and seeing firsthand the marvelous fruits that such an endeavor produces, it is very important that *Great Adventure* leaders know that they can come to us for support. We see each leader as an integral part of our *Great Adventure* family and, for that reason, we offer various ways to help you as you lead others to the mission of discipleship to which we are all called. Some of those outlets are:

- A Leader's Guide to walk you through the process of implementing and running a *Great Adventure* study.
- Leadership Training Days (These trainings are held at various locations during the year. Information on Training Days and a schedule can be found at www.GreatAdventureOnline.com)
- Dedicated Leader's Section on our website featuring Your Study World, an interactive guide that knows exactly where you are in a given study and offers teaching tips and words of encouragement for that week.
- A Study Group Specialist who can help you with any question you may have about a *Great Adventure* study (call 610-696-7795, ext. 204 or email BibleStudy@ascensionpress.com)
- Bible Locator Map (This enables leaders to locate *Great Adventure* studies in their area. Visit www.GreatAdventureOnline.com and click on the Bible Study Locator link.)
- *The Journey* Newsletter (Written by our Bible study creators, this seasonal newsletter offers insights into upcoming *Great Adventure* Bible studies, provides educational articles to help you not only as a leader, but also nourish you on your faith journey, and informs you of upcoming *Great Adventure* seminars, conferences, and specials.)

8. Do all *The Great Adventure* studies follow the same format?

Yes, all *Great Adventure* Bible studies (with one exception) are built on four steps, to be done in the following order: 1) individual preparation by reading Scripture and answering questions posed in the workbook; 2) small group discussion of those same questions; 3) a fifty-minute teaching on the lesson from one of our teachers (available on DVD and CD); and 4) individual review by reading the written responses to the questions. (The exception is *A (Quick!) Journey through the Bible*, which is an introduction to the "big picture" of Scripture and to *The Bible Timeline* learning system and not an actual "study". The *Quick Journey* is based on a series of eight, half-hour DVD/CD talks that are followed by small group discussion to clarify the things taught in the lesson. Light reading and review of *The Bible Timeline* chart is assigned between classes to help prepare people for what is coming up.

Be sure to register your group at www.greatadventureonline.com or by calling one of our Bible Consultants at 1-800-376-0520 and take advantage of these and other exceptional opportunities brought to you by *The Great Adventure*.

If you have any questions or concerns about leading a *Great Adventure* Bible study, please contact our Director of Community Relations, Kelly Wahlquist, at kwahlquist@ascensionpress.com.

