

## **How to Increase (Double) Adult Bible Study Participation**

**Convener:** Brad Keefe, Beautiful Savior/Olathe 913-461-6049

**Documenter:** Rev. Andrew Wehling, Grace/Liberal 620-624-5900

### **Group Participants:**

Mike Massaglia	Faith, Ottawa	785-242-0196
Vivian Massaglia	Faith, Ottawa	785-242-0196
Wanda Honig	St. Paul, Duluth	785-889-4342
Bruce Lindskog	Faith, Ottawa	785-746-5717
Rev. Andrew Wehling	Grace, Liberal	620-624-5900
Leland Holle	Immanuel, Bremen	
Cleone Neff	Immanuel, Lakin	620-355-7008
Bill Morris	Christ, Augusta	316-778-1591

### **Why is This Important to Us?**

- ◆ We find Bible Study to be very strengthening.
- ◆ Many individual/church problems can be traced back to a lack of members in Bible Study
- ◆ 14% of LCMS members attend a Bible study----Too Few!
- ◆ Relationships with God and each other are strengthened by Bible Study.
- ◆ Worship and Bible Study are two different things---worship is not enough
- ◆ Bible Study can make us better able to witness our faith...Helps you know who you believe, what you believe and why you believe it.
- ◆ Bible Study provides another approach to the Word. Some people are able to understand more with an interactive approach.
- ◆ Growth happens through the Word! (from 2 Timothy 3:16)

### **Assets on Which to Build**

Resource: Send people to local college to learn how adults learn. There are specific techniques that work very well with adults.

### **Other Discussion of Significance**

#### **Why People Don't Attend**

- ◆ Too early
- ◆ Not getting value out of it
- ◆ Fear of embarrassment
- ◆ Lack of self-discipline
- ◆ Don't want to read
- ◆ Not interested in the topic
- ◆ Don't make the pastor lead all bible classes
- ◆ Lack of persistent inviting
- ◆ Be careful of prepared materials because they may limit learning due to inflexibility.

Why People Do Attend / Things That Work

- ◆ Personal, persistent inviting
- ◆ Variety of topics, variety of leaders
- ◆ Leaders besides the pastor, sometimes the presence of a pastor is intimidating.
- ◆ Relevant topics
- ◆ Variety of teaching styles, people learn differently.
- ◆ Include time for fellowship
- ◆ Couples home Bible Study – 5 couples rotate to each others homes.
- ◆ Flexible lesson plan, adapts to the class
- ◆ Studies available for different levels of spiritual maturity
- ◆ Availability of willing and able lay leaders
- ◆ 40 Days of Purpose created excitement for the Word.
- ◆ Pastors train lay leaders how to lead
- ◆ Recognize that each of us is called by the Holy Spirit to study the Word.
- ◆ Allow men and women to teach
- ◆ Mentor newer attendees, try not to intimidate with knowledge.

**Recommendations**

Send adult leaders to local college to take a class on adult learning methods.