

Here's a suggested outline for how to make your first bible study go smoothly:

- Invite Jesus to attend your bible study. Ask for His power and presence to work in and through each person gathered.
- If it's a morning study, have some donuts (donuts are key) and juice on hand. If it's an evening study, have some light snacks for the boys and dads before study begins.
- Start fairly promptly as some may have time constraints.
- We find that your study works best when the kids sit with their dads.
- Introduce yourself and then have the kids introduce themselves especially if there are some who do not know each other.
- Begin the bible study with an opening prayer. Ask if one of the kids or dads will pray - but don't push too hard, since it may be uncomfortable or intimidating at first - even among the dads. One idea is to assign the opening and closing prayer to one of the dads and their child, so that they have time to get ready.
- As the group gets more comfortable with each other, we find that rotating the prayer around from week to week is a good way to get the kids and dads involved.
- Give a short description about the day's lesson
- Lead-off with the discussion question & discuss it for a bit. Encourage your dads to participate in the discussion. We find that often dads will not say anything because it's "a study for the kids." But their participation is important.
- Go through the lesson at a comfortable pace for the group. If you don't finish - it's ok.
- End the study lesson promptly at the time mentioned. Twenty minutes of study is plenty. You may find that at times, less is better.
- Encourage the dads and kids to do the corresponding **Exploring the Bible Worksheet** each week, and leave time in your study for each child to give their answers.
- Encourage the kids to practice the quality or character trait emphasized in the day's lesson during the week. Challenge them to share with the group at the next study about any situations where they had an opportunity to put into practice what they learned.
- Here's a wonderful way to end each lesson: have each dad get with his child (or boy or girl he brings with him whose father is not there) and ask them to pray with each other. We have found that this is a wonderful way for a dad and child to learn to pray for each other. You may suggest that they ask each other what they would like prayer for that day.

Try the above recipe the first few times, and then if you need to, adjust it to meet your group's needs.