

THE MOSAIC GROUP A Leaders' Guide

The Mosaic Group enhances the learning experience gained through the online modules of The Mosaic Course. An ideal Mosaic Group consists of a group of people committed to meet on a periodical basis to discuss the materials presented in the Mosaic Course.

- The group is more effective when it is smaller in size. It is ideal to limit the number of participants in a group to 12.
- It is better to have the group affiliated to a church, school or other established institutions.
- It is recommended that the group meet in a public place instead of someone's home.
- The Leader of the Mosaic Group should be someone who has already completed the Mosaic Course.
- It is important to remember that the discussions on world religions can turn into contentious and controversial arguments. The leader **MUST** discern whom he or she should admit to the group. It is also ideal for the leader to obtain basic background information of each member (through his or her social media portfolio, friends, pastors etc.).

REQUIREMENTS

- Order enough copies of "The Mosaic Course Study Guide," which provides the syllabus and guidelines for the Mosaic Groups.
- Order enough copies of "The Wise Men and the Unknown God," and "Fact or Fiction?" which serve as supplementary resources for facilitating group discussions.
- Make sure there is online access to watch video modules through our website: www.themosaiccourse.org

PROMOTION

- It is ideal to launch the course with a **Mosaic Express** seminar at your location (You may collaborate with neighboring churches to maximize resources and logistics).
- People outside the church might also be interested in learning about world religions. Explore public platforms to advertise the group (such as news papers, bulletin boards of local clubs, coffee shops, radio stations etc.)

- Recruit a graphic artist to customize the following files available for free download from our website
 1. Mosaic Group Poster
 2. Mosaic Group Flier
 3. Mosaic Group Power Point
 4. Mosaic Group Social Media post
 5. Mosaic Group Video Trailers
 6. Mosaic Group Bulletin Blurb
 7. Mosaic Group Personal invitation letter/e-mail.

GROUP SCHEDULE

- Meal (Optional)

It is always better to start the group meeting with a breakfast/lunch/dinner. Sharing a meal often creates an atmosphere conducive to friendly discussions.

- Reading from the scripture

Choose one of the following passages from the Bible to open the group.

Acts 17:22-31

Romans 1:16-25

2 Corinthians 10:1-7

Colossians 1:13-20

Colossians 2: 6-10

Colossians 4:5-6

1 Peter 3: 8-15

Please remember that these Scriptures are meant simply for reading, not for discussions.

Each chapter of the book, *The Wise men and the Unknown God* has an opening passage from different religious texts. You may choose to read these verses if it won't make the members feel uncomfortable.

- Prayer

You may choose to invoke the generic name of 'God' if people of other religious traditions are present in the meeting.

- Watch the Video (30 min)

It is better to have the members preview the video for each week before the group. However it is very likely that a few of them would still miss the

assignment. In this case, the group may choose to watch the video together and/or read through the course notes in the Study Guide.

- Share Experience (15 min)

Discuss your experience working through the practical exercises suggested in the Study Guide or your encounters with people of the religion you are studying on that particular week

- Discussion Question (30 min)

Since the videos are limited to 30 minutes or less, some of the reflection questions can be answered only by reading the respective chapters in *The Wise Men and the Unknown God* or 'Fact or Fiction?'

Limit the discussions specifically to the reflection questions listed in the study guide.

The discussions **SHOULD NOT** turn into a Q&A session where the leader (or someone else) answers the questions raised by the others.

It is extremely important that the leaders show the humility to admit that they do not have answers to controversial questions. Instead they should note down the question and send them to the Mosaic Course helpdesk.

The Mosaic teachers will be doing a monthly webinar in which the questions received at the helpdesk will be answered to the best of his/her ability.

- Intercessory prayer (15 minutes)

It is always a good idea to spend some time praying for the people of the specific religion and the countries in which it is predominant.

General Instructions

- As often said, 'consistency' is the key for the group. It is important to be regular and 'on-time' in the group.
- Always remember to close the group ON TIME. If people express genuine interest, the leader may choose to extend the time only after officially closing the group. Allow people who want to leave on time to do so without feeling remorse.
- Encourage members to extend their relationship beyond the group in a HEALTHY WAY.