

Seven Proven Guidelines

Here are the seven proven guidelines for sharing Explore with a friend:

1. Cover the 3 sessions in 3 weeks in a private setting

- That means you should get your friend to calendar in 3 meeting times over 3 weeks.
- Three sessions in 3 weeks is very important because these sessions build on one another. To miss a week is to lose momentum.
- If you have to wait a week or two in order to make it work for 3 straight weeks—do it.
- Also, **where** you meet is important. Don't meet where people can interrupt you. Make it a private setting that feels safe and maximizes interaction.

2. Pray for your friend.

Once your friend commits to meet with you, begin praying:

- Pray that your friend's heart would be open to truth.
- Pray that God would speak personally to them in each session.
- Pray that God would empower you to lead them well through each session.
- Pray for their salvation and a new life.

3. Provide your friend an Explore workbook and Bible a week before you meet.

- These will be your gifts to them to keep.
- Whatever Bible you give them, make sure it is the same translation you are using. That's because using the same translation will eliminate confusion when you are reading or discussing passages of Scripture in Explore with your friend.
- **The New American Standard Bible is highly recommended.** Explore was developed with this translation and therefore works a little better with the study. You can pick up a couple of inexpensive paperback versions of the NASV for you and your friend in most Christian bookstores or online.

4. Show your friend how to prepare for the meetings.

- **Open their workbook** and show them Session 1: Contact. Your friend is to go through each session in advance of your meeting, looking up verses and answering the questions they find there as best they can. They should not worry about having to have "right answers." **This is not a test!** Rather they should relax and enjoy the new discoveries they make. They can skip over anything they do not understand. Assure

them you will make everything clear when you meet together. Remember, working through the lesson in advance prepares your friend for a good discussion with you when you meet together.

- **Also be sure** to point out to your friend that each session begins with an **online video** which they can watch and enjoy before working through their lesson. For example, at the beginning of Session 1, which begins by addressing the evidence our material world offers for the existence of God, they will go to www.LifeReady.com/Explorevideos and click on “Contact.”

Your friend can watch these opening videos online as often as he or she likes.

- One last thing to help your friend be prepared for your meeting: ask if he or she has used a Bible before. If they haven’t, take a moment to show them how the books of the Old Testament and New Testament are laid out with page numbers in the Table of Contents. They might want to **photocopy this page** to help them find passages of Scripture quicker.
- Show them how to look up a verse.
- Tell them that while finding verses may be a little frustrating at times, they will be learning how to use the Bible for themselves – which is a good thing.

5. Always meet around a table.

- Doing so creates a warm, personal atmosphere of up-close interaction.
- It also allows both of you space to spread out your workbooks and Bibles.

6. Provide light refreshments.

- Refreshments always enhance the comfort level.

7. Handle spontaneous questions wisely.

- You want to stay focused on the session, which takes about 90 minutes to complete—spontaneous questions can get you off track.
- Unless you can handle a question quickly, you should suggest to your friend that you wait until the end of the session to discuss it.
- If you are asked a question you can’t answer.... “I don’t know but I’ll try to find out by next week” is always the best response.
- Finding answers to questions like these will not only help them, it will keep you growing.

These seven proven guidelines are sure winners when taking someone through Explore.