

Making Our Guest Feel Comfortable In Our Class

The goal of any church should be to reach others with the Gospel message of Christ's love and acceptance.

So, when we have new people join in our Bible Study group, how can we assure that we are grateful that God has blessed us with their presence?

Dr. Ken Hemphill gives us six valuable ways to accomplish this goal. (pp23-24 in V.E.L.C.R.O. Book)

FIRST – Assign a member to be at the entrance to welcome these guest as they come into the class.

This person should remain in the area of the door after the class begins to greet the late arrivals. It is possible these guests have had to take their children to their assigned areas first.

Remember, even regulars feel uncomfortable entering a class after it has already begun.

SECOND – Focus on your seating arrangements.

Make sure you have extra chairs in place before the class begins. This lets people know that you were expecting them, and you always have room for more.

Make sure these open seats are close to the entry area.

It is uncomfortable to make the guest "parade" across the room in front of the class to find a seat.

If it is a co-ed class, make sure the seating arrangement is enough for both to sit together.

Position the chairs so guest can enter without making a scene or feel like they are interrupting the class. No embarrassment please.

THIRD – Some classes use name tags, so it is easier for the guest to put a name and a face together.

Sure, members know one another but the goal is to allow our guest to feel part of the group. If we want them to wear a name tag, why should the class members as well?

Acknowledged the names of those who participate in discussion. "That is an excellent point, Bill. Joe does this give a better insight to the passage?"

Remembering names is a chore for many people. You can overcome this by repeating their names several times as you speak to them or as you introduce them to others in the group.

FOURTH – Assist our guest with any information needed in registration procedure that the class uses to keep up with their attendees.

FIFTH – Some classes provide refreshments.

Coffee and juice along with a light snack are great ways to begin a "get-to-know-you" conversation.

When these refreshments are provided a more relaxed atmosphere is set in the study. People need to feel at ease if they need to refill their cup.

SIXTH – Get rid of the word **VISITOR** and replace it with the appropriate term **GUEST**.

People drop by for a visit and we expect them to leave. When we have guest come we want them to feel welcomed, wanted, and valued.

So, the quest that must be answered is: Do we want people to come by our class to visit or do we want them to feel welcomed, wanted, and valued?

The term **GUEST** is a softer more appealing term and describes your desire for the ones God send you way to be valued and for them to return again.