

## A STUDY GROUP METHOD

by

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The URANTIA Book speaks to different individuals in different ways (as well as to the same individual in different ways upon repeated reading and reflection). This realization contains a potential for breadth and depth in group study of The URANTIA Book.

This idea is for each member of the group to read a selected paper in advance of meeting and to take note of some element or aspect of the paper that holds particular personal meaning. This may be a specific statement, a theme, an idea, or any other focus-characteristic. The person then examines, from his or her own unique perspective, why and in what way this aspect has singular significance.

Upon gathering, each personality presents to the others an informal description-explanation of his or her own selection. During this time, there should be a minimum of discussion with the only interruptions being for questions or particularly pertinent observations. Then a general, hopefully enlightening, discussion occurs after all persons have shared their experience.

This approach is intended to accomplish several goals, including both active and passive participation by all. In the preliminary reading and study, each individual adds a dimension of understanding by examining some meanings and values contained in the paper on a personal level. In the group activity, each person grows through learning both the idea-experiences and the interpretation-reactions of the others.

It is my view that the extraordinary nature and content of The URANTIA Book should motivate new, imaginative, and enlightened activities of many sorts. In particular, we should continually examine ways to study the Papers. I hope that this method will be helpful both in providing an approach for some particular groups and in eliciting other ideas for study group formats.