

2. STUDY CIRCLE



2.0. INTRODUCTION

“What is real Study Circle? ‘Study’ is for steady. ‘Circle’ is for purity and peace. Study Circle participants should experience oneness and constant steadiness....In a Study Circle, a book is selected, discussed and the meaning taken. A violin has four strings, and music is produced by playing on this. Each person takes a different meaning, but the ultimate meaning is one. Sugarcane has different names and forms but juice is one, and it is sweet.” (140595)

Attendance at Study Circles at many Sai Centres is often much less than for the devotional singing meeting. However some Centres have good attendance and perhaps the reasons for this can be seen by recognising what people want from a Study Circle. These include:

- ❖ A feeling of involvement, of being recognised by others as having a point of view worth considering, even though they might choose not to speak.
- ❖ A sense of joint exploration, a seeking of consensus as to what a particular phrase or paragraph means.
- ❖ The need to study topics which are relevant and practical.
- ❖ The opportunity to stay focussed on the chosen theme or topic, with the facilitator gently but firmly leading the group back to its message.
- ❖ A group feeling of inner peace, with argumentation and egoistic monologues being quickly diffused or pre-empted by the Study Circle leader or the members of the group.
- ❖ Occasional presentations by someone regarded as ‘knowledgeable’ in a particular aspect of Lord Sai’s teachings, although we are advised that this form of meeting is not really a ‘Study Circle’.