

Reading with Others

TWO FLAVORS OF GROUP STUDY

Topical Study

- Amazing Facts, It is written, Lifting up Jesus
- Forgiveness, Death and Hell, Hope

Passage Study

Ranging from several verses to a chapter of scripture per study, ultimately reading to become familiar with a whole portion of scripture.

Week One: How to Read the Bible with Someone

Goal: *Help people read the Bible for themselves, hear God's Word clearly, and talk honestly about what it says.*

1. Types of study

- **New to the Bible:** Read through a Gospel! Read Genesis! Read 1st, 2nd, or 3rd John.
 - **Skip the genealogies**
 - **Get ahead of hard names**
 - **Don't go "deep"**
- **Bible Aware:** Read shorter passages more in depth or start a study guide
 - Go "deep"
 - Truth link, Lifting up Jesus, It is Written, Amazing Facts
- **Bible Literate:** Topical studies from scratch work well, or harder books.
 - Invite them to do some reading on their own
 - Topics should be between 4 - 12 passages
 - Books should be done in like 4 months tops
 - If a book is too long, split into sections
 - Truth link, Lifting up Jesus, It is Written, Amazing Facts
- **Baptismal:** Can be any of the above but be mindful of their reading level.

2. Outline

- **Welcome and make it comfortable.**
 - Offer a drink or a snack
 - Set up somewhere comfortable: *Well lit, Ample seating, Turn off distractions*
 - Offer a Bible
- **Explain the plan:** read a little, ask, talk, end
- **Pray briefly**
- **Read and start the Discussion Loop:** Let people know they can pass if they do not want to read or answer.

3. How to read

- Ask people to read, be clear about what to read.
- Small sections at a time: 2–6 verses, or one short paragraph.
- After reading, pause. Do not rush to explain everything.
- If a word or idea is confusing, ask, "What do you think that means from the passage?"

4. The three basic kinds of discussion questions

1. **What does it say?** Look at the facts. Who is speaking? What happens? What words repeat?
2. **What does it mean?** What is God teaching here? What does this show about God, people, sin, grace, or faith?
3. **What should I do?** Is there something to believe, thank God for, confess, obey, or share?

5. The three basic depth layers

1. **Reading Comp:** can you tell me what the words on the page are?
2. **Subtext:** can you tell why the author is telling us this?
3. **Challenges:** can you tell what god is telling you?

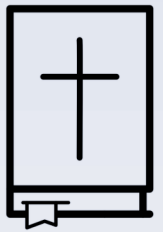
6. Time guide

- **Total time:** 30–45 minutes is enough.
- **Opening/prayer:** 3–5 minutes.
- **Reading and discussion:** 20–30 minutes.
- **Application and prayer:** 5–10 minutes.
- End before people are tired. It is better to leave them wanting more.

7. Keep it focused

- Avoid preaching
- Do not answer every side question immediately.
- Return to the Bible.
- Encourage practical response

Read to be Led



Bible Studies are primarily for the practice of growing to clearly see God and the human condition. We believe this leads to faith.

Analogies are how parables work. You may ask, "can this part of the text be a symbol of something in my life?"

Pray for guidance

Read the passage

Discuss

What's going on?

Whats the analogy?

Why did they say that?

place yourself in the passage

Ask about the weird

Identify patterns

Does it apply today?

Summarize and
affirm where
you can

Look forward

Pray for closure

Encourage decision in your Bible studies as often as appropriate.

- How does this change how you will...
- What is this calling us to do or change?
- Do you believe what the Bible teaches about...
- Are you ready to ...

Return to the text often. The power of a Bible study doesn't come from our opinion.

Repeat as needed