

How to Study the Bible Workshop Facilitators Guide

General information:

First, thank you for being willing to lead. It is our hope and prayer that this workshop helps us grow as a congregation as people who treasure and are transformed by Scripture.

What can you expect?

Video teaching—The video each week is designed to give you an introduction into the “what”, “why”, and “how” of each concept covered. These videos will be around 20 minutes and will prepare you for the next two elements.

As a leader, you should be prepared to pause the video when prompted for times of discussion and practice. The video provides a 10 second window for you to pause the video.

- <https://vimeo.com/showcase/10632077> (video link)

Group experience—Transformation happens best in community! You have table leaders who do not all claim to be experts, but they are hungry learners to come alongside you. If you want to maximize your time in this workshop, take advantage of the opportunity to read with others.

As a leader, encourage your group to engage during these times. For some group discussion, breaking into groups of 3-6 might be best. Turning to a few people in your small group may be helpful to make the most of the discussion time.

Practice based—There is no substitute for actually reading the Bible. So, there will be opportunities to practice while we are gathered as well as practices for you to implement throughout the week. If you want to maximize your experience, take advantage of these practice opportunities! The hope from this workshop is that you can understand God’s Word, treasure God’s Word, and respond faithfully to God’s Word.

As a leader, encourage your group to commit to engaging Scripture consistently over the next six sessions. Encourage them to try new things!.

Growth opportunities—There will be additional resources and exercises available throughout to ensure your opportunity to grow regardless of where you are on your journey of seeing, hearing, and being transformed by God through Scripture.

There will be next step opportunities for anyone who wants to go deeper!

Session Guide—For each session, you will have a guide that provides guidance on what you could say during the opening, each discussion time, and to wrap things up. This is to be a helpful guide, not a script. If you don’t need it, great! Additionally, you will find a couple of samples for different assignments/practices that may be helpful to share with your group.

Session 1:

Direct link to session 1 Video:

- <https://vimeo.com/showcase/10632077/video/861657180>

Opening (before the video)

Host: Thank you all so much for joining us for this six-session journey to become better students of Scripture. My name is _____ and I will serve as the workshop host. This workshop is intentionally designed to have time around tables to connect and learn together. So, before we start, we want to make sure you at least know everyone's name at your table. Take the next 5-7 minutes and have each person around the table share their name and why they signed up for this workshop. After that, we will begin watching our first session. The way this workshop is designed is that the teaching is via video. There will be moments throughout the teaching where the video will be paused for a time of discussion around your table.

First discussion time (Pause—10:30 time on the video)

Encourage group to engage with discussion questions found on the screen or in the workbook. Take 15-20 minutes.

Discussion Questions (Pause and discuss):

1. What role did the Bible play in your earliest church experiences and how do you think that shaped you?
2. What does your practice of Scripture reading look like right now? How did you get to that point?
3. What difficulties do you face when it comes to the Bible (fear, confusion, boredom, skepticism, etc.)?
4. What do you hope to take away from this Workshop?

Practice and Exercise time (pause video at 20:40 mark on the video)

(host) Take the next 10-15 minutes to work through this on your own, then you will begin discussion with your group. As you jump in, here are a few recommendations on where to start if you do not currently have a Bible reading plan. Look in the back of your workbook and note the passages provided there. Here at Crossroads, we are beginning a journey through 1 John. That would be a great place to practice and begin engaging over the next six weeks together. After giving you some time to consider things on your own, I want to encourage you to take some time on your own to talk with one another about your prayer, your commitment, and what you are looking forward to.

Discussion Time (following practice above)

(host) Take the next 10-15 minutes to discuss your plan with your group. Plan to ask others in your group about their commitment next time you are together.

Session 2:

Direct link to session 2 Video:

- <https://vimeo.com/861679675>

Opening (before the video)

We are excited to jump into session 2 of our How to Study the Bible Workshop. As we begin, I want you to talk with your group for about ten minutes about your experience engaging Scripture this past week.

Discussion Questions

1. Were you able to maintain a consistent time to read each day? Why/Why not?
2. How was last week's practice of prayer and repetition?
3. What seemed helpful?
4. What did you learn? (About Scripture or yourself!)
5. Did anything new come to mind about how you have approached Scripture in the past?

Start video

First discussion time (Pause—7:04 time on the video)

Encourage group to engage with discussion questions found on the screen or in the workbook. Take about 10 minutes.

Discussion Questions (Pause and discuss)

1. What has been your experience of studying the Scriptures in the past? What value do you see in studying the Bible?
2. How do you tend to relate to authority? Is there any area of life that you struggle to trust the Bible as authoritative?

Practice Time (Pause—11:15 on the video)

Take about 15-20 minutes to look at Matthew 6:1–18. It is in the back of your workbook on pages 62 –63. Feel free to pull that out and move it to the front. Again, look for a new topic being introduced, a change in the tone of the passage, a change in scene, or a new set of metaphors or topics being addressed.

(PAUSE SCREEN) (20-25 minutes)

to identify a subunit, look for:

- *A new topic being introduced*
- *A change in the tone of the passage*
- *A change in scene*
- *A new set of metaphors or topics being addressed.*

Put a slash where you see a change in subunits.

Take 10 minutes around your table to talk through what you discovered in your reading. Share how you broke down the passage. Again, this is not a perfect science.

For an example see page 8 of this guide.

Before restarting the video

I hope you found that time around your table fruitful! We are going to continue to wrestle through this passage as we add a couple more tools to be used. We are going back to the video briefly before taking some more time to work through Matthew 6.

Practice Time (Pause—13:45 on the video)

During this time, we encourage you to take 10 minutes to mark repetition and draw connections followed by 10 minutes discussing what you found around your table.

(PAUSE SCREEN) (15-20 minutes)

Look for repetition and relation in...

- Ideas
- Terms

Develop a “code” to help you see connections

Create a title for the subunits of the passage

For an example see page 8 of this guide.

(Pause Screen) Next Steps

As we wrap up our study time, take some time to discuss what your next steps will look like this week. Are you going to alter your prayer? What passage will you work through to identify subunits? And what is exciting or intimidating about this exercise this week?

PRAYER: continue to pray (and even adjust) your prayer as you prepare to read.

IDENTIFY SUBUNITS: Work through at least one of the additional passages in your workbook and practice identifying subunits, looking for repetition in ideas, words, or phrases, create a title, and provide a summary statement for the passage.

Discussion Question:

What is exciting or intimidating about this exercise this week?

Matthew 6 Mark-up example

Sub units

V.1 - God rewards and motivation matters 6:1 "Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.^{Give, Pray, Fast} "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. 5 "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. 7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 9

V.2 - 4 When you give, give for God's glory

V.5-8 - When you pray, pray to God, not others

V.9-15 - Pray like this

V.16-18 - Fast for God not others

"This, then, is how you should pray: " 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us today our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.' 14 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. 16 "When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 17 But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 18 so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Repetition

"to be seen" / "honored" 6 x others / Father who sees
- v. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 18

Reward
- v. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 18

in secret
- v. 4, 6, 18

Father
- v. 1, 4, 6, 8, 9, 14, 18

Relation

Practice your righteousness →
- When you give...
- When you pray...
- When you fast...

Session 3:

Direct link to session 3 Video:

- <https://vimeo.com/863370856>

Opening (before the video)

We are excited to jump into session 3 of our How to Study the Bible Workshop. As we begin, I want you to talk with your group for about 15-20 minutes about your experience engaging Scripture this past week. Feel free to share an example of identifying subunits or how your thinking about Matthew 6:1-18 has developed.

Discussion Questions

1. Were you able to maintain a consistent time to read each day? Why/Why not?
2. How was last week's practice of identifying subunits? What seemed helpful? What did you learn? (About Scripture or yourself!)

Start video

Practice time (Pause—11:23 time on the video)

Right now, you can grab Matthew 4:1-11 from page 59 of your workbook. As you do, work with your group to uncover the central conflict, the characters, the setting, and any patterns you observe in the passage. You can note these things on page 16 of your workbook. You and your group have about 25-30 minutes to work through this.

Next Steps (pause video at 22:00 mark on the video)

Alright, in this time together, talk through whether you're sticking with the same prayer or adjusting, talk through what you are reading currently and how you will take steps to grow in understanding that genre, and finally, commit to checking out the Bible Project video on the genre you are going to be reading this week, then discuss the two questions in your workbook.

Discussion Time (following practice above)

Session 4:

Direct link to session 4 Video:

- <https://vimeo.com/863370856> <https://vimeo.com/showcase/10632077/video/865959245>

Opening (before the video)

We are excited to jump into session 4 of our How to Study the Bible Workshop. As we begin, I want you to talk with your group for about 10-15 minutes about your experience engaging Scripture this past week. Feel free to share an example of how paying attention to the genre of a passage helped you this week.

Discussion Questions

1. Which passage did you work on this week? How did your understanding grow as you thought through the genre of the passage?
2. Did you share what you learned with anyone this week?
3. What questions do you have about what we have practiced so far?

Before Starting the Video:

If you would like, you can grab page 46 which provides a diagram to help you visualize the levels of Biblical Context through concentric circles.

Group Practice and Discussion Time (Pause—4:15 time on the video)

Take about 10-15 minutes with your group to discuss this passage.

Read **Philippians 4:13** –I can do all things through Him who gives me strength.

- What does this passage seem to be saying? What does it mean?

Read **Philippians 4:10–13**

- How does this context help us understand what Paul is saying?

Group Practice and Discussion Time (Pause—9:13 time on the video)

Take about 10-15 minutes with your group to discuss this passage.

Read **Jeremiah 29:11**

- **Discuss:** Without knowing any other context, what does this passage seem to be saying? What does it mean?

Read **Jeremiah 29:4–14**

- How does this context help us understand what the author is saying?

BEFORE RESTARTING THE VIDEO:

We are about to jump back into the video teaching where we will break down Jeremiah 29 a little bit, and then look at a case study for understanding how a passage fits within a larger book by looking at Genesis 38.

Next Steps (pause video at 25:14 mark on the video)

Alright, in this time together, talk through whether you're sticking with the same prayer or adjusting, talk through what you are reading currently and how you will take steps to grow in understanding a text in its immediate context. You don't have to do everything but choose one aspect of context to explore this week. Jeremiah 25-29 could be a place to start, or you could choose a passage from a book you are already reading.

(Pause Screen):

1. Continue to pray or adjust your prayer as you prepare to read.
2. Read a large portion of Scripture aloud and in a group if possible. There are recommended passages in your workbook.
3. **IDENTIFY ONE PASSAGE TO EXPLORE ONE ASPECT OF CONTEXT:** Note how understanding the context helps you grow in your understanding. This can be the same passage you read aloud! Again, Jeremiah 25-29 would be a great place to start. Or you could choose the passages surrounding one of your favorite verses.
4. You will notice the next steps outline other helpful steps you could take before our next session.

Discussion Question:

- What is exciting or intimidating about this exercise this week?

Session 5:

Direct link to session 5 Video:

- <https://vimeo.com/showcase/10632077/video/865966681https://vimeo.com/863370856>

Opening (before the video)

We are excited to jump into session 5 of our How to Study the Bible Workshop. As we begin, I want you to talk with your group for about 15-20 minutes about your experience engaging Scripture this past week. Feel free to share an example of how paying attention to the genre of a passage helped you this week.

Discussion Questions

1. Did you continue the practice of prayer before reading?
2. If so, what did you notice this week?
3. If not, how can we help you commit to seeing it through?
4. How did looking at Jeremiah 29:11 in context impact how you understand the verse?
5. Were there any tools and resources you used this week that were particularly helpful?
6. What questions do you have about what we have practiced so far?

Before Starting the Video:

In this session you will hear Appendix V referenced. It can be found on page 51 of your workbook if you would like to look more into using Cross-references and Footnotes in your Bible.

This session will have a long teaching on understanding the whole Bible. Take notes of questions you might have about this for us to discuss near the end of our time together. We will not have a specific practice for that together. We will spend the bulk of our practice time together looking at cultural context with one passage in particular. Let's jump in together!

GROUP PRACTICE AND DISCUSSION TIME: (Pause—20:38 time on the video) Case Study: READ

Revelation 3:15-18

Right now, I want to encourage you again to read through Revelation 3:15-18 and spend 12-15 minutes discussing what you think the passage is communicating. You could even take time to share how you have heard that communicated in the past. Then, in just a little bit I'll prompt you to move forward.

Discussion Questions

1. What is Jesus saying in verse 16?
2. What does He think about the church in Laodicea?
3. What does He want to see from the church?
4. What does He not want to see?
5. Why?

Moving forward:

After 12-15 minutes, encourage groups to read the paragraph at the top of page 30 in their workbook. Then, reread Revelation 3:15-18 and discuss how that understanding might help you better understand the passage.

Cultural Context

“Cold water (and sometimes spiced hot water) was preferred for drinking, and hot water for bathing, but Laodicea lacked a natural water supply. Water piped in from hot springs six miles to the south, like any cold water that could have been procured from the mountains, would be lukewarm by the time it reached Laodicea. Although water could be heated, the natural lukewarmness of local water (in contrast with the hot water available at nearby Hierapolis) was undoubtedly a standard complaint of local residents, most of whom had an otherwise comfortable lifestyle. (Their imported water was full of sediment, though better, said the geographer Strabo, than the water of Hierapolis).”¹

LEADING THE GROUP:

Here is a helpful comment that follows this quote to help us understand what it is communicating:

“Jesus says: ‘were you hot [i.e., for bathing] or cold [i.e., for drinking], you would be useful; but as it is, I feel toward you the way you feel toward your water supply—you make me sick.’”²

BEFORE RESTARTING THE VIDEO:

As we jump back in now, we are going to hear a bit of Revelation 3 unpacked and prepare for our final discussion time.

Next Steps (pause video at 25:14 mark on the video)

Alright, in this time together discuss some potential next steps.

PRACTICE

PRAYER: continue to pray (and even adjust) your prayer as you prepare to read.

WATCH A THEME VIDEO FROM BIBLE PROJECT: Go to and watch a theme video that interests you. You could choose a theme that aligns with what you are currently studying, a theme that sounds interesting, or a series like “Royal Priesthood Series” to see a bigger picture of how some

¹ Craig Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*, (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 1993), 774-75.

² Keener, 774-75.

themes develop. Personally, begin paying attention to themes within a chapter, a book, or the Bible as a whole!

EXPLORE ONE ASPECT OF HISTORICAL/CULTURAL CONTEXT ON A PASSAGE: You could choose to reflect more on the notes on Revelation 3:15-18 or you could choose another passage. Look at the recommended resource list for tools that may be helpful. Some passages to consider:

- Jeremiah 25-29
- John 4:1-26
- Luke 8:43-48

Discussion Question

1. What is exciting or intimidating about this exercise this week?

NEXT STEPS

- Continue your practice of prayer before reading
- Watch a theme video from Bible Project
- Explore one aspect of historical context on a passage that interests you
- Be prepared to share what you learned next week. Bonus if you share with someone what you are learning before we meet again 😊
- Check out the RESOURCES at www.cccgo.com/ScriptureWorkshop

Session 6:

Direct link to session 6 Video:

- <https://vimeo.com/showcase/10632077/video/866042295>

Opening (before the video)

We are excited to jump into session 6 of our How to Study the Bible Workshop. As we begin, I want you to talk with your group for about 10-15 minutes about your experience engaging Scripture this past week. Feel free to share an example of how paying attention to the genre of a passage helped you this week.

Discussion Questions: (only press into questions that the group is responsive to)

1. Did you continue the practice of prayer before reading?
2. If so, what did you notice this week?
3. If not, how can we help you commit to seeing it through?
4. How did looking at the context impact how you understand the verses you chose?
5. Were there any tools or resources you used this week that were particularly helpful?
6. What questions do you have about what we have practiced so far?

Practice and Discussion Time (Pause—11:54 on the video)

Ok, now we are going to practice meditation by using Matthew 6:1-18. The prompts are found on page 35 of your workbook. Take 12-15 minutes to work through the text. You can consider taking one subunit to meditate on if you like. That will allow you to focus on a smaller section. The goal of this time is not to get through a certain amount of verses, but to allow God to move the truth from your head to your heart. After having some time on your own, we will discuss the experience together.

- o **Pray:** Ask God to reveal what he wants you to see in this passage.
- o **Chew:** Mull over each word and each line of the passage or verse.
- o **Talk:** Speak with God about what comes out of your “chewing” on the passage.
- o **Ask:** Converse with God. “Am I living in light of this? What difference does this make? Am I taking this seriously? If I believed and held on to this, how would that change things? When, or if, I forget this, how does that affect me and all my relationships?”³
- o **Reflect:** Chew on the passage again in light of what comes out of your time talking and asking.
- o **Contemplate:** Sit and “be” with God. Listen. Move from knowing (head knowledge) about what God has said in this passage to letting him move it deep within your heart.

(after the practice time, move to discuss these questions)

Discussion Questions

- Was this a new practice for you? What parts felt natural and which parts felt more challenging?
- What did you notice in your time of reflection?

³ Keller, 148.

PRACTICE and DISCUSSION TIME (Pause—13:48 on the video)

Psalm 1 is found on page 58 of your workbook. Feel free to grab that as we talk through this together.

1. Stability

What images help us to see this picture of stability?

2. Fruitfulness

What type of fruit is described in this passage?

3. Blessing

The blessing is the peace and wholeness we were made for. How do we see this in the image of the tree?

NEXT STEPS DISCUSSION (Pause—22:59 on the video)

Right now we are going to wrap things up. As we do, here are a few things to do:

- Remember, *“God has given us a Bible that is **for the hungry**—for those desperate enough to depend on him for provision and who will exert great mental energy or endure seasons of dullness to eventually taste some honey.”*⁴
- Commit to engaging in God’s Word daily. If you have a plan, continue that plan! If you need somewhere to start, work through one of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) or a letter like Philippians.
- Commit to praying before you read to focus your heart and mind on God’s Word
- Commit to respond faithfully.
- Talk about what you are reading with others.
- Try memorizing a set of verses and meditating upon them.*

PRAYER: continue to pray (and even adjust) your prayer as you prepare to read.

IDENTIFY ONE PASSAGE TO MEDITATE ON OVER THE NEXT WEEK: choose to memorize this over a longer period of time as well.

COMMIT TO BETTER ALIGNING YOUR LIFE WITH HIS WORD:

As you read and meditate, look for practices (doing), ways of being, and ways of seeing the world. How is God opening your eyes and how will you respond?

⁴ Andrew Abernethy, *Savoring Scripture: A Six-Step Guide to Studying the Bible* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2022), xvi.

* see recommended passages in Appendix VI.

NEXT STEPS