

Share Jesus



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How do I use this Bible Study?

These study guides have been designed for two purposes. Personal devotional study, and as a small group Bible study discussion guide.

PERSONAL DEVOTIONAL STUDY

You will get the most out of these studies if you spend some time in the passage on your own before you gather with a small group. That said—these booklets aren't homework assignments—but a guide to a pattern or rhythm of study you can do with any passage of scripture. Each study is broken into four sections shaped around four big questions.

1. What does the passage say?
2. What does it mean?
3. How does this passage reveal the gospel?
4. How do I respond to what God has revealed?

The materials provided in each section will help you in working through these main questions.

A PATTERN OF STUDY

As you begin this study we encourage you to commit to a daily pattern of prayer, bible reading, and study, and to plan to spend time with God in these passages throughout the week.

Here's a couple of examples of what that could look like...

As a daily devotional time (15-20 min/day)

- Day 1 Read the passage through a couple of times.
- Day 2 Question 1
- Day 3 Question 2
- Day 4 Question 3
- Day 5 Question 4
- Day 6 Continue to think and pray through Question 4
- Day 7 Meet with your small group.

B. In 2-3 longer periods of time throughout the week (45 min x 2-3)

- Day 1 Read the passage through, Question 1, Question 2
- Day 2-3 Continue to think and pray through the passage throughout your day
- Day 4 Question 3, Question 4
- Day 5 Continue to think and pray through your response to the passage throughout your day
- Day 6 Review the passage and your study guide one more time.
- Day 7 Meet with your small group

IN YOUR SMALL GROUP

As you gather in small groups these booklets will support you in praying together, and sharing what God has revealed in response the four big questions each study asks.

Throughout this booklet there are cues for small group discussion:

IN YOUR SMALL GROUP:

These are questions your leader can use to guide your conversation as you gather together. Focusing on these questions will help you move through the study without having to answer every single question we've provided for personal reflection. They have been written specifically to facilitate group conversation and sharing out of what people have discovered during their own preparation time.

SHARE JESUS!

The scripture passages for this particular Bible study have been chosen to help equip you to know and share your faith. In addition to the questions we'd usually want to ask when studying an Epistle (letter), we'll also ask you to think through how the passage shapes your sharing of the gospel with friends and neighbours. You'll also have the chance to identify one or two people in particular to pray for throughout these studies.

May our hunger and thirst for God grow from week to week as we come to him, have our eyes opened, our ears unstopped, and our hearts softened - as we see him, know him, love him, and so follow him with joy.

A prayer as you begin your study:

Dear Father,

As I study your word, with the Holy Spirit as my helper, may I hear your voice and carefully consider what you are saying. Open my eyes and reveal to me your gospel. Help me love you more, and grow my desire to respond to what you have revealed through your word. Strengthen me to give you glory in all of my life.

In Jesus name, Amen.

Study 1

Colossians 4:2-6

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

- 2 Continue steadfastly in prayer,
being watchful in it with thanksgiving.
- 3 At the same time, pray also for us,
that God may open to us a door for the word,
to declare the mystery of Christ,
on account of which I am in prison—
- 4 that I may make it clear,
which is how I ought to speak.
- 5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders,
making the best use of the time.
- 6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt,
so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

QUESTION 1 // WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Look carefully at

The **words and phrases**

- Repeated words or themes or contrasts
- Transition words (ie. but, therefore, for, so that)
- A truth, a command, a warning, a question
- Verbs—note past, present, and future.
Who is doing this action?
- Surprises
- Descriptions of God: Father, Son, and Spirit
- Big Bible Word

IN YOUR SMALL GROUP:

Share something you noticed.

The **whole passage**

- What kind of writing is this?
- Who is writing to whom?
- Are there any clues why the author is writing this letter?
- What tone or feeling is the author trying to communicate?

The **structure of the passage**

- Divide the passage into its natural sections, one for each major thought
- Create a heading for each section
- Is there a key verse(s)?
- What does the structure help you notice?
- What is the author's flow of thought?

IN YOUR SMALL GROUP:

Have a couple of people share how they have divided up the passage and why.

QUESTION 2 // WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Look at the context:

Read the passage immediately before and after

Read Colossians 1:24-2:1

Read Ephesians 3:1-13

How does this wider context impact the meaning of this week's passage?

IN YOUR SMALL GROUP:

Share how these passages have helped you understand the meaning of this week's text.

So, what's the big idea of the passage?

BIG IDEA

IN YOUR SMALL GROUP:

Have a few people share their "big idea" and/or work together on it as a group.

STOP TO PRAY

Thank God for all he has already revealed to you,
and ask him to help you see him more clearly,
and love him more deeply, through the next steps of your study.

QUESTION 3 // HOW DOES THIS PASSAGE REVEAL THE GOSPEL?

What do we learn about...

- Who God is?
- Who we are?
- What God has done/is doing/will do?
- How we are to make the gospel known?

Through your reading in both Colossians and Ephesians, what has God revealed his plan to be?
What does Paul ask for, and challenge the Colossians to do?

IN YOUR SMALL GROUP:

Share how you have grown in your understanding of the gospel and our need for Jesus.

QUESTION 4 // HOW DO I RESPOND TO WHAT GOD HAS REVEALED?

Sharing Jesus

- What is one practical thing you have learned about how to pray for and reach out to those around you with the Gospel?

- How is God calling you to change your priorities, motivations, or expectations, as you seek to share Jesus with your friends and neighbours?

Are there any other ways God is calling you to respond?

Take time here to record the names of one or two people you want to pray for and have opportunity to share Christ.

What is one thing you are going to remember from this passage?

What is one thing you can ask for prayer for? This should be practical and personal.

IN YOUR SMALL GROUP:
Share what you've learned this week about sharing Jesus.

PRAY

Remember particularly those you have chosen to pray for during these studies.

Study 2

1 Peter 3:15-18

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy,
always being prepared to make a defense to anyone
who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you;
yet do it with gentleness and respect,

16 having a good conscience,
so that when you are slandered
those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

17 For it is better to suffer for doing good,
if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

18 For Christ also suffered once for sins,
the righteous for the unrighteous,
that he might bring us to God,
being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,

QUESTION 1 // WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Look carefully at

The **words and phrases**

- Repeated words or themes or contrasts
- Transition words (ie. but, therefore, for, so that)
- A truth, a command, a warning, a question
- Verbs—note past, present, and future.
Who is doing this action?
- Surprises
- Descriptions of God: Father, Son, and Spirit
- Big Bible Word

IN YOUR SMALL GROUP:

Share something you noticed.

The **whole passage**

- What kind of writing is this?
- Who is writing to whom?
- Are there any clues why the author is writing this letter?
- What tone or feeling is the author trying to communicate?

The **structure of the passage**

- Divide the passage into its natural sections, one for each major thought
- Create a heading for each section
- Is there a key verse(s)?
- What does the structure help you notice?
- What is the author's flow of thought?

IN YOUR SMALL GROUP:

Have a couple of people share how they have divided up the passage and why.

QUESTION 2 // WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Look at the context:

Read 1 Peter 3:8-4:12

How would the situation of the original readers have affected them in speaking about Jesus?

IN YOUR SMALL GROUP:

Share how these passages have helped you understand the meaning of this week's text.

So, what's the big idea of the passage?

BIG IDEA

IN YOUR SMALL GROUP:

Have a few people share their "big idea" and/or work together on it as a group.

STOP TO PRAY

Thank God for all he has already revealed to you, and ask him to help you see him more clearly, and love him more deeply, through the next steps of your study.

QUESTION 3 // HOW DOES THIS PASSAGE REVEAL THE GOSPEL?

What do we learn about...

- Who God is?
- Who we are?
- What God has done/is doing/will do?
- How we are to make the gospel known?

What does this passage say it looks like to ‘honour Christ the Lord’?
How does this make the gospel known?

Read 1 Peter 2:9-10. Who does Peter say we, the church, are in Christ?
What have we been called to do?

IN YOUR SMALL GROUP:

Share how you have grown in your understanding of the gospel and our need for Jesus.

QUESTION 4 // HOW DO I RESPOND TO WHAT GOD HAS REVEALED?

Sharing Jesus

- What is one practical thing you have learned about how to pray for and reach out to those around you with the Gospel?

- How is God calling you to change your priorities, motivations, or expectations, as you seek to share Jesus with your friends and neighbours?

Are there any other ways God is calling you to respond?

What is one thing you are going to remember from this passage?

What is one thing you can ask for prayer for? This should be practical and personal.

IN YOUR SMALL GROUP:
Share what you've learned
this week about sharing Jesus.

PRAY

Remember particularly those you have chosen to pray for during these studies.

Study 3

Acts 17:16-34

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

- 16 Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens,
his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols.
- 17 So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons,
and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there.
- 18 Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him.
And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?”
Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—
because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.
- 19 And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying,
“May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?”
- 20 For you bring some strange things to our ears.
We wish to know therefore what these things mean.”
- 21 Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there
would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.
- 22 So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said:
“Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious.
- 23 For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship,
I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’
What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.
- 24 The God who made the world and everything in it,
being Lord of heaven and earth,
does not live in temples made by man,
25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything,
since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.
- 26 And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth,
having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,
27 that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him.
Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for
- 28 “In him we live and move and have our being’;
as even some of your own poets have said,
“For we are indeed his offspring.’

-
- 29 Being then God's offspring,
we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone,
an image formed by the art and imagination of man.
- 30 The times of ignorance God overlooked,
but now he commands all people everywhere to repent,
- 31 because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness
by a man whom he has appointed;
and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."
- 32 Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked.
But others said, "We will hear you again about this."
- 33 So Paul went out from their midst.
- 34 But some men joined him and believed,
among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite
and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

QUESTION 1 // WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Look carefully at

The **words and phrases**

- Repeated words or themes or contrasts
- Transition words (ie. but, therefore, for, so that)
- A truth, a command, a warning, a question
- Verbs—note past, present, and future.
Who is doing this action?
- Surprises
- Descriptions of God: Father, Son, and Spirit
- Big Bible Word

IN YOUR SMALL GROUP:

Share something you noticed.

The **whole passage**

- What kind of writing is this?
- Who is writing to whom?
- Are there any clues why the author is writing this letter?
- What tone or feeling is the author trying to communicate?

The **structure of the passage**

- Divide the passage into its natural sections, one for each major thought
- Create a heading for each section
- Is there a key verse(s)?
- What does the structure help you notice?
- What is the author's flow of thought?

IN YOUR SMALL GROUP:

Have a couple of people share how they have divided up the passage and why.

QUESTION 2 // WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Look at the context:

Think about the audience Paul is speaking to. Athens was the center of intellectual and philosophical speculation in the ancient world (v. 18). Very simply:

- Epicureans believed in distant uninvolved gods, the world due to chance, no survival of death and no judgment. They emphasized chance, so humans should pursue pleasure.
- Stoics believed that god was all things (the universe and god equivalent), and the world was determined by fate. Humans must pursue their duty and develop their own self-sufficiency. They emphasized fatalism, submission and the endurance of pain.

Read verses 16-21. What do we learn about people of Athens? What is Paul's response to them? How does he relate to them?

Read verses 22-29. How is Paul's message shaped for this particular audience?

IN YOUR SMALL GROUP:

Share how these passages have helped you understand the meaning of this week's text.

So, what's the big idea of the passage?

BIG IDEA

IN YOUR SMALL GROUP:

Have a few people share their "big idea" and/or work together on it as a group.

STOP TO PRAY

Thank God for all he has already revealed to you,
and ask him to help you see him more clearly,
and love him more deeply, through the next steps of your study.

QUESTION 3 // HOW DOES THIS PASSAGE REVEAL THE GOSPEL?

What do we learn about...

- Who God is?
- Who we are?
- What God has done/is doing/will do?
- How we are to make the gospel known?

Read verse 30-31. What are the main points of the gospel that Paul chooses to focus on? Why?

What are the various ways people responded to the gospel in this passage? What can we learn from this?

IN YOUR SMALL GROUP:

Share how you have grown in your understanding of the gospel and our need for Jesus.

QUESTION 4 // HOW DO I RESPOND TO WHAT GOD HAS REVEALED?

Sharing Jesus

- What is one practical thing you have learned about how to pray for and reach out to those around you with the Gospel?

- How is God calling you to change your priorities, motivations, or expectations, as you seek to share Jesus with your friends and neighbours?

Are there any other ways God is calling you to respond?

What is one thing you are going to remember from this passage?

What is one thing you can ask for prayer for? This should be practical and personal.

IN YOUR SMALL GROUP:
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this week about sharing Jesus.

PRAY

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Study 4

Romans 1:1-7

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

- 1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus,
called to be an apostle,
set apart for the gospel of God,
- 2 which he promised beforehand
through his prophets in the holy Scriptures,
- 3 concerning his Son,
who was descended from David according to the flesh
- 4 and was declared to be the Son of God in power
according to the Spirit of holiness
by his resurrection from the dead,
Jesus Christ our Lord,
- 5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship
to bring about the obedience of faith
for the sake of his name among all the nations,
- 6 including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,
- 7 To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

QUESTION 1 // WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Look carefully at

The **words and phrases**

- Repeated words or themes or contrasts
- Transition words (ie. but, therefore, for, so that)
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Who is doing this action?
- Surprises
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IN YOUR SMALL GROUP:

Share something you noticed.

The **whole passage**

- What kind of writing is this?
- Who is writing to whom?
- Are there any clues why the author is writing this letter?
- What tone or feeling is the author trying to communicate?

The **structure of the passage**

- Divide the passage into its natural sections, one for each major thought
- Create a heading for each section
- Is there a key verse(s)?
- What does the structure help you notice?
- What is the author's flow of thought?

IN YOUR SMALL GROUP:

Have a couple of people share how they have divided up the passage and why.

QUESTION 2 // WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Look at the context:

Read the passage before and after

Read Romans 1:8-17, 16:25-27.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-8.

Read Isaiah 52:7-10 (v 7 “good news” = “gospel”) What is the gospel message here?

How does this wider context impact the meaning of this week’s passage?

IN YOUR SMALL GROUP:

Share how these passages have helped you understand the meaning of this week’s text.

So, what’s the big idea of the passage?

BIG IDEA

IN YOUR SMALL GROUP:

Have a few people share their “big idea” and/or work together on it as a group.

STOP TO PRAY

Thank God for all he has already revealed to you,
and ask him to help you see him more clearly,
and love him more deeply, through the next steps of your study.

QUESTION 3 // HOW DOES THIS PASSAGE REVEAL THE GOSPEL?

What do we learn about...

- Who God is?
- Who we are?
- What God has done/is doing/will do?
- How we are to make the gospel known?

What do we learn about the gospel from this passage?

It's origins?

It's content?

It's purpose?

How does the gospel revealed here in scripture contrast with other "gospels" you have heard, both in the world and in the church?

IN YOUR SMALL GROUP:

Share how you have grown in your understanding of the gospel and our need for Jesus.

QUESTION 4 // HOW DO I RESPOND TO WHAT GOD HAS REVEALED?

Sharing Jesus

- What is one practical thing you have learned about how to pray for and reach out to those around you with the Gospel?

- How is God calling you to change your priorities, motivations, or expectations, as you seek to share Jesus with your friends and neighbours?

Are there any other ways God is calling you to respond?

What is one thing you are going to remember from this passage?

What is one thing you can ask for prayer for? This should be practical and personal.

IN YOUR SMALL GROUP:
Share what you've learned this week about sharing Jesus.

PRAY

Remember particularly those you have chosen to pray for during these studies.

START WITH PRAYER

Q1 // WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Look carefully at:

The **words and phrases**

- Repeated words or themes or contrasts
- Transition words (ie. but, therefore, for, so that)
- A truth, a command, a warning, a question
- Verbs
- Surprises
- Descriptions of God: Father, Son, and Spirit
- Big Bible words
- Theme words from the book

The **whole passage**

- What kind of writing is this?
- Why?
- Who is writing to whom?

The **structure** of the passage

- What is the author's flow of thought?
- Divide the passage into its natural sections, one for each major thought
- Create a heading for each section
- Is there a key verse(s)?

Q2 // WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Look at the **context**:

- Read the passage immediately before and after.
- Read supporting passages provided in the study, or your Bible's cross references.

So, what's the big idea of the passage?

STOP TO PRAY

Q3 // HOW DOES THIS PASSAGE REVEAL THE GOSPEL?

How do we learn about...

- Who God is?
- Who we are?
- What God has done/is doing/will do?
- How we are to make the gospel known?

Q4 // HOW DO I RESPOND TO WHAT GOD HAS REVEALED?

Sharing Jesus—What is one practical thing you have learned about how to pray for and reach out to those around you with the Gospel?

- Are there any other ways God is calling you to respond?
- What is one thing you are going to remember from this passage?
- What is one thing you can ask for prayer for? This should be practical and personal.

FINISH IN PRAYER

