

understanding the daily discipleship guide

the gospel project for adults

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Whether we're talking about Sunday school classes, seminars, or small groups, our aim is to make disciple-making disciples. No matter our background, no matter our familiarity or comfort with the Bible, that's what we're all meant to be.

The Gospel Project for Adults exists to help further that end as groups engage with the story of Scripture and the essential truths of the Christian faith with the best discipleship experience possible.



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At the heart of that experience is the Daily Discipleship Guide, which places a strong emphasis on time in the Bible, learning to study it effectively personally and in community.

As you open the Daily Discipleship Guide, you'll see that each unit begins with a reflective introduction that both encourage the reader and serve to explore the how the unit works together to reveal a key essential doctrine. These are written by pastors, authors, and ministry leaders from all around the country, and help set the tone for everything that an individual or group will study over the next several weeks.



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Each weekly session begins with five daily devotions. These are short reflections on passages that connect directly to each week's focal passages, as well as draw from the large body of Scripture to address the session's themes. The marginalia also includes callouts explaining key terms, defining



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essential doctrines, and providing helpful quotes from believers of times past and present. These devotions can be completed in as little as five minutes a day, and help prepare the reader's heart and mind for the larger group discussion.

The daily devotions comprise the majority of the content for each session and are intended to be a group member's first experience with the study each week. This allows for the group time to be an overflow of a member's personal time in the Word, but groups always have the option of doing the group time first and using the devotionals as a response.

The goal here is simple: to provide your groups with more, purposeful content that will help them gain a greater understanding and love for God and the gospel.

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The group discussion guide concludes each session, and includes the key points of the session, interactive questions, and activities to address the needs of a variety of learning styles, and session application questions that follow the head-heart-hands model that runs throughout The Gospel Project across all ages, helping your groups to consider how they will think, feel, and live differently in light of what they've learned in Scripture.

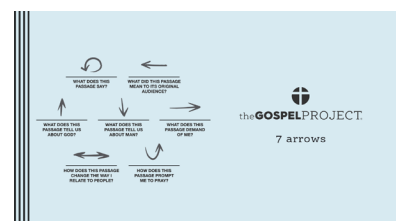
These application questions ideal for both high level discussion within the group time, as well as deeper exploration within a smaller group.



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Even though reading and studying the Bible has been proven time and again to be absolutely life-changing, fewer people than ever know how to do so effectively. So to help, we've incorporated a simple Bible study tool called the Seven Arrows of Bible Reading into the Daily Discipleship Guide. This tool helps group members learn the basic mechanics of Bible study by asking a few basic questions of any passage.



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But there's one more way we're helping people learn to study the Bible. And this is the most important way because we want people to use their own Bibles.

So as you read the Daily Discipleship Guide, you'll see that, while there are plenty of references, you won't find any printed Bible text within the resource itself.

Counterintuitive? Maybe. But one of the best ways to help people read and study the Bible is to encourage them to read the Bible they own, the Bible and Bible translation they chose for themselves.

So whether a person reads from the CSB, ESV, NIV, KJV, or any other translation, this helps them read focal passages in context and to see their place in the larger story. To learn the landscape of their Bibles as they study the Bible.

To instead of reading a passage from our book, read it from the Book.

And that's what it all comes back to. Engaging people with the Bible, helping them to learn to study it effectively personally and in community. And there is no better resource to help you further that end, for yourself and for others, than The Daily Discipleship Guide.



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- What excites you most about what you've learned about the daily discipleship guide?
- What opportunities to do you see to strengthen your group and personal discipleship through this resource?



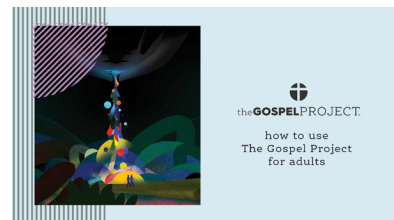
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understanding the leader resources

the gospel project for adults

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The goal of adult ministry, whether in small groups, Sunday school classes, or seminars, is to make disciple-making disciples. People whose minds, affections, and actions are shaped by their knowledge and love for God. This is what The Gospel Project exists to do as groups engage with the story of Scripture and the essential truths of the Christian faith, both individually and in community.



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So how does someone lead a class or group through The Gospel Project for Adults? This is a good question, and an important one. Leaders and facilitators need the right tools to effectively teach and lead, and there are two that exist for this Christ-centered Bible study series.

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The first is the leader guide, and provides teaching outlines, biblical commentary, and optional illustrations all in one convenient package—everything leaders need to effectively teach and lead each session.



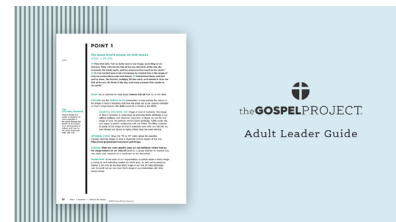
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Being equipped to lead begins with being fed as a leader. That's why each unit begins with a reflective introduction that sets the stage for everything that is to come in the unit.

As each session begins, leaders will find an outline of the big ideas for each week, helping them to see what their groups will learn, how they will see Christ, and how they should respond.

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Each of the study's main points are divided into two sections. The first is the teaching outline which includes questions designed to address the variety of learning needs represented in each group, interactive discussion, opportunities to engage groups with free video content that is focused on each session's essential doctrine, and thumbnails of the recommended leader pack items for that portion of the session. And if you're wondering what the leader pack is, hold that thought: we'll come back to it shortly.



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The second half of each main point is the biblical commentary. This commentary is written by ministry leaders from a variety of backgrounds and offers a deep-but-accessible exploration of each focal passage, revealing its intended meaning and overall place in the storyline of Scripture. That desire for accessibility applies to how the commentary itself is written, but also the language we've chosen to use throughout the Leader Guide, especially when it comes to theological terms. Because there are some terms that we cannot not use, we've spent some extra time defining them for leaders who might be unfamiliar.



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So if a leader isn't really sure what the word "sovereignty" means, or how to easily define the Trinity—words that matter a great deal to the Christian faith—they'll have a handy resource at their fingertips. And the goal with this is really quite simple: no matter your familiarity or background, you can use The Gospel Project for Adults to effectively disciple your groups.

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At the conclusion of each teaching outline, leaders will find a section called "My Response."

This section focuses on how knowing God leads to changed affections or emotions which leads to changed lives.



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In other words, clear, Christ-centered Bible study will shape the head, heart, and hands of a Christian.

Each question in the response component is intended to focus on one of these three aspects, along with a short explanation of the implications of the study in each of these areas. These questions can be used both to lead

discussion in a larger gathering, as well as in smaller group contexts.

The final component of each session is one we've called "Extras." These are short additional commentary excerpts from trusted sources, included for those who want to dig even deeper on an aspect of a main point, as well as illustrations and optional interactive activities.

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Speaking of interactive activities and illustrations, that's where the leader pack also comes in. Inside this resource you'll find several posters and handouts, as well as digital materials to share with group members, and a new tool to help people memorize key verses of Scripture.



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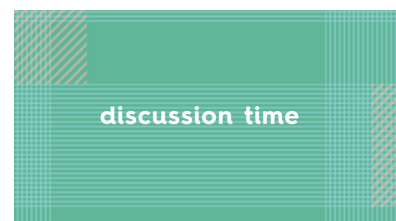
These resources look beautiful, but they're also designed for functionality, with each poster designed so that it can easily be used as a presentation side that can be used in person, online, or in hybrid meetings.

These resources, the Leader Guide and Leader Pack, provide leaders with purposeful tools that will encourage their groups' growth in Christ.

And that truly is the reason behind everything we do in The Gospel Project for Adults: To help our groups see how the Scriptures testify about Him, to have their understanding of the Bible deepen and change, and see them live in light of the gospel, the good news we're all here for.

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- What excites you most about what you've learned about the new leader resources for The Gospel Project?



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making the most of your time in every session

the gospel project for adults

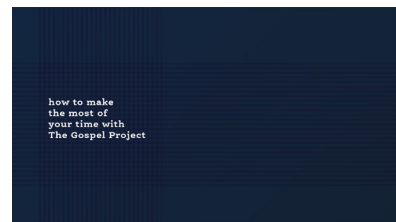
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Completing a session of any Bible study can be a challenge, even for the most experienced group leaders. There are many reasons for this of course:

The group itself may be really focused on one specific area of discussion, one of the hallmarks of a positive group experience.

Discussion may run longer than anticipated. Rabbit trails may threaten to derail your time together. Most commonly, it's a matter of time.

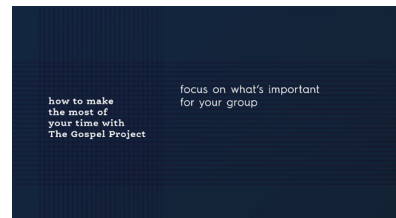
While most Bible studies, including The Gospel Project, are developed with 35–40 minutes of group time in mind, some groups have about half of that available to them. With the amount of content within each session, it can feel overwhelming. So how do group leaders make the most of their time? Here are three ways:



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First, choose the key point(s) you need to emphasize the most with your group. As a group leader, you should spend between 30 minutes and an hour preparing for the session, reading through the teaching outline and commentary, and making notes on what elements of the session is most important for your group.



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As you read, perhaps you'll find that your group needs to focus almost the entire session exclusively on one of the three main points. If so, be sure to provide some context and summarize the other key points, but zero in on that one point. Maybe there's an element of all three points. Whatever the end result is, emphasize the elements most essential for your group.

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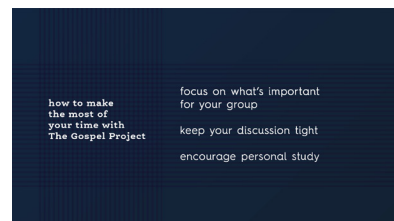
Second, keep your discussion tight. Every session features a mix of different kinds of questions: icebreaker, observation, interpretation, and application. You don't have to use them all. Keep discussion tightly controlled by limiting yourself to just a handful of these questions from throughout the session. I would recommend limiting yourself to four questions total in a very short group time, but if your group likes to interact, you may need to reduce that further.



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Finally, encourage personal study among your group members. Even if you have plenty of time and get through the session content in your group time, you're still only going to scratch the surface of what can be taken away from the session. Strongly encourage personal reading and reflection before or after each session for participants to make the most of each study. The Daily Discipleship Guide is built with this in mind, providing five daily devotions that connect to the focal passages and major themes of each week's session.



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Remember, your goal is not to "get through" the content so much as to encourage one another as we grow in Christlikeness. So as you prepare, continue to pray and trust that God will lead you to focus on the material from each session that will accomplish that goal. That is our prayer for you as well.