

# Grace Bible Institute: Helping Others Change

Engaging God's Word  
Session 1

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## Why use God's Word?

"Christ makes it clear that this kingdom is not a political, earthly rule. He calls it a "within you" kingdom. God's redemptive solution would not come by political revolution or physical war. The primary battle would be fought and won in human hearts." (page 4)

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## Why Use God's Word?

"Change is possible! You can stand amid the harshest realities of sin and have hope that will never disappoint you. That marriage can change. That teenager can change. That bitterness can be put to death. That compulsion can be broken. That fear can be defeated. That stony heart can be made soft, and sweet words can come from a once-acid tongue...The Bible calls this change *redemption*. We are not only changed, we are restored to God. This is what makes all other change possible." (pages 6-7)

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## Why Use God's Word?

"We must not offer people a *system* of redemption, a set of new insights and principles. We offer people a *Redeemer*...This is what separates believers from our culture's psychology. Because it has fundamentally turned its back on the Lord, the world can only offer people some kind of system." (page 8)

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## Why Use God's Word?

"The Bible says that our core problem, the fundamental reason we do what we do, is *sin*. What is being said here? Scripture is defining sin as a *condition* that results in *behavior*. We all *are* sinners, and because of this, we all *do* sinful things." (page 10)

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## Why Use God's Word?

"If sin is part of our nature, we will always be dealing not only with our history, but with how sin distorts the way we handle it. Help will only come as we deal with our past and own our sin. This is essential because *sinner*s tend to respond *sinfully* to being *sinned against*... Sin is the ultimate disease. The grand psychosis. You cannot escape or defeat it on your own. Look around and you will see its mark everywhere." (pages 11-12)

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## Why Use God's Word?

"As human beings, we cannot walk through life on our own. We need rescue, healing, and forgiveness. In short, we need God. We need the good news, the news of the King who has come, making lasting change possible. This alone is our personal hope and the basis of our ministry to others." (page 16)

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## Why Use God's Word?

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Romans 1:16-17

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## Why Use God's Word?

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

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## How Do I Use God's Word?

- How?
- Yeah but how?
- Seriously, how?
- (Please tell me how...)

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## How Do I Use God's Word?

- Pray.
- Know the Bible.
- "There is hope for you in Jesus Christ!"
- Use your favorite passages.
- Plan ahead and think in categories.

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## Planning Ahead & Thinking in Categories

- You are trying to build an arsenal of verses that cover many situations.
- It's like building a library of biblical advice.
- These will be...
  - Your favorite verses. (you already know what these mean!)
  - Verses you've read in quiet time.
  - Verses you've taught to others.
  - Verses that have been taught to you.

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## Planning Ahead & Thinking in Categories

- Write some categories on the blank pages in the front and back of your Bible.
- Some example categories:
  - The Gospel
  - Verses that are good when life is hard
  - Sin
  - Personal Identity in Christ
  - Forgiveness and repentance
  - Joy in Christ
  - Trust instead of worry

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## My Most Used Verses

- The Gospel
  - Colossians 1:21-23
  - Ephesians 2:1-10
- Sin
  - Romans 1:18-20
  - Romans 3:9-18
- Personal Identity in Christ
  - Galatians 5:1

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## My Most Used Verses

- How to stop sinning
  - Galatians 5:16-18
- Repentance and forgiveness
  - Revelation 2:4-5
  - Colossian 3:13
- Doing the impossible
  - Mark 9:14-27

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# Miscellaneous Advice

- Plan ahead by knowing the right meaning of verses. Don't be afraid to purchase some good resources.
- (Because I can't help it, I recommend New Bible Commentary, ESV Study Bible, MacArthur Bible Commentary, and Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem)
- Plan ahead by knowing how to actually explain a verse. What you say is as important as what the verse means. They go together!
- Explain scripture like a story. Make it character centered rather than plot centered.
- Pray!

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