

Faith Community Bible Church

one2one

Bible Reading

Session I: "Problem, Prescription, and Process"

Problem: We know we should, but we don't

- I. Our Father is a personal God, and he wants to be in relationship with us (**John 1:10-13, John 14:21, Rev 3:20**)
- II. A relationship involves spending time together and getting to know each other (**Luke 5:16**)
- III. God has given us the tools and gifts to establish and build that relationship (**2 Pet 1:3**):
 - a. Scripture – the foundation and test of our faith (Josh 1:8, 2 Tim 3:16)
 - b. Prayer – listening to and speaking to God (John 15:7, Phil 4:6-7)
 - c. Fellowship – teaming up with fellow believers (Matt 18:20, Heb 10:24-25)
 - d. Witness – telling and showing others the good news (Matt 4:19, Rom 1:16)
- IV. But surveys indicate that many Christians don't regularly read the Bible, pray, invest in fellow believers, or witness to non-Christians.
 - a. **Barna survey: fewer than 20% of those who identify as Christians read the Bible daily.**
 - b. **Lifeway Research: of regular church-goers:**
 - i. **~1 in 5 read Bible daily**
 - ii. **~1 in 5 read Bible "a few times a week"**
 - iii. **~1 in 5 read Bible ~ 1x/week**
 - iv. **~1 in 5 read Bible occasionally (once or twice a month)**
 - v. **~1 in 5 "never or rarely" read Bible**
 - vi. **Though 80% say they have a personal responsibility to share their faith, 61% have not told another person how to become a Christian in over 6 months.**
 - vii. **But 90% say they "desire to please and honor Jesus in all I do."**
 - c. **Pew Research: >20% of Evangelicals do not pray daily**
- V. Why not? **Ask the class for suggestions**
 - a. **"I don't know how"**
 - b. **"It's too hard"**

- c. *"I'm too busy"*
- d. *"It makes me uncomfortable"*
- e. *"I'm undisciplined"*
- f. *"I don't see the purpose"*
- g. *"I don't know where to start"*

Prescription: "One-2-One" Bible Reading

- I. Meeting regularly and intentionally with another person to pray, read the Bible, and discuss what you have read as you build a Christ-focused relationship with each other.
 - a. Scripture and Prayer – ***The framework we are proposing involves spending time in intentional prayer and Scripture reading with another person on a regular basis.***
 - b. Fellowship and Witness – ***Meeting in this manner with a fellow Christ-follower is fellowship, and meeting with an unbeliever is a manner of witnessing. And the meeting itself can be a witness to others.***
- II. A simple and flexible framework, not a detailed procedure: ***This is not a recipe book, and at the same time, it is not "rocket surgery." It is a simple framework with which to start, flexible enough to "make it your own"***
- III. With whom?: ***Another member of FCBC, a friend at work, a person in your neighborhood, a family member... anyone!***
- IV. How do we begin? ***Find a person, make a commitment, and stumble through it! Ask for help if and when you need it. Grow together!***
- V. What do we do?
- VI. How do we prepare? ***You decide with your other person how much preparation to do. There are great benefits from studying the passage on your own between meetings, but there are also great benefits that can come from a "fresh look" when you meet.***

Process: A Simple and Flexible Framework

- I. Find a person with whom to meet
 - a. ***Prayerfully*** consider your "Frangelism" network: Friends, Family, Associates, Neighbors
 - b. Think of someone whom you already see or meet regularly
 - c. Ask a pastor or elder for a suggestion
- II. How do I ask? ***This is one of the hardest hurdles to get over for some people, but it's not difficult!***
 - a. ***"I've been wanting to read the Bible more regularly, but have had a hard time sticking with it. Would you be willing to spend a few weeks meeting once a week to read through and discuss the Bible together?"***
- III. Agree on a time, place, book, and duration: ***We recommend meeting for a short time (~1hr) once a week for a set duration – 6-12 weeks. Choose a book you might be interested in. We will provide some suggestions for particular situations/relationships in Session II***
- IV. A typical meeting:
 - a. Prayer:
 - i. That your hearts would be open to God's Word
 - ii. That God would help you understand what you are about to read

- b. Scripture reading:
 - i. Read the text aloud
 - ii. Perhaps more than once
- c. Discuss
 - i. Questions specific to the text or type of text (we will provide some examples in Session II)
 - ii. General open-ended questions:
 - 1. "What does this passage tell us about God?"
 - 2. "What does this passage tell us about humankind?"
 - 3. "How does this passage call us to respond?"
 - 4. "How will we apply this to our lives this week?"
 - 5. "How can we help each other do these things?"
 - 6. "Who can each of us tell about what we've learned?"
- V. We (the pastors, elders, and congregation) will help!
 - a. Reading plans with suggested questions
 - b. Reading through the book of Mark as a congregation this Fall
 - c. Help finding a person with whom to read
 - d. Help with difficult questions or dilemmas
 - e. PRAYER
 - f. Encouragement
 - g. Exhortation
 - h. Accountability