

Faith Community Bible Church

one2one

Bible Reading

Session II: "Assembling the Nuts and Bolts"

FACILITATOR NOTES

The Nuts and Bolts: What a One-2-One Meeting Might Look Like

- I. Start with Prayer! – **An earlier participant in this class said wisely that we need to “bathe this in prayer,” and she was absolutely right. James wrote, “if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.” (Jas 1:5)**

Pray and read first! Otherwise, the temptation is to talk and “catch up” first, and then before you know it, there are 5-10 minutes left to pray and read!

HOWEVER! If the other person walks in carrying the weight of the world on his or her shoulders, never be so rigid in the method that you miss the ministry! Stop, hear, and pray! (One would hope this wouldn't be the pattern of every meeting, but we need the flexibility to minister to each other in the context of the relationship)

- a. That your hearts would be open to God's Word
 - b. That God will help you understand what you are about to read
- II. Three Methods for One-2-One Bible Reading: **Let's be honest up-front – as we have been putting these classes together, we have been stealing liberally from some authors and**

others. There are some superb resources available, and we encourage you to take advantage of them. We are not interested in re-inventing the wheel, nor in making things complicated. We want to provide some tools that will work for you. If these help, great! If they don't, tell us and we'll try to help you find ones that do. If you want to modify them – go for it!!! The vision is two people, gathering regularly to pray and read Scripture. If that happens, PRAISE GOD!!!

a. “The Swedish Method” – Simple, Straightforward, and Low-Threat (as related in *One to One*, by David Helm). This is so-named because a missionary began using this as she worked with students in Sweden.

- i. Read the passage aloud together – **Reading aloud means we both read and hear Scripture, and those different senses bring Scripture into our minds and hearts through different pathways. We have many ways to take in Scripture. The Navigators ministry uses a “hand” illustration for this – with the idea that for us to grasp Scripture effectively, we need to employ all five fingers:**
 1. **Pinky – Hearing someone (or ourselves) read Scripture aloud.**
 2. **Ring – Reading at an overview level – at a conversational tempo, stopping when needed to digest what we have read, but in general reading to hear the sentences and paragraphs rather than word-by-word.**
 3. **Middle – Studying. Slowing down to study a verse or a word. Checking out cross-referenced passages. Reading supporting books (like a concordance, a dictionary, an article on the historical/geographical context, a commentary, etc).**
 4. **Index – Memorizing. Committing a verse or passage to our memory.**
 5. **Thumb – Meditating upon the Word. Running over the passage or verse in our mind, asking God to plant it deep in our hearts, to give us understanding, faith and obedience, and to change our lives, thoughts, and actions with it.**

Reading the passage aloud accomplishes the first two – we both read and hear Scripture.

- ii. Read the passage on your own, and write down at least one but no more than three things in each of these categories (This can be done before or during the meeting): **This might take 5-10 minutes or so. If you do it in the meeting, make sure you account for this time in your planning. If you do it before the meeting, this would be your preparation or “homework” for the meeting. Both options have benefits. Not preparing beforehand can help illuminate candid first impressions. Preparing beforehand might give deeper insights. Just agree on how you'd like to do it – and if you decide after a meeting or two or three to change, do it!**

1. “A Light Bulb” – **Something that stands out, whether it is something you haven’t seen before, an important point, or a relevant insight.**
 2. “A Question Mark” – **A question the passage asks, or a question you have about the passage.**
 3. “An Arrow” – **An application to your life or to a situation you are encountering.**
- iii. Share with each other from each category – discuss your light bulbs, see if you can find answers to your questions, ask how you can help each other with your arrows. **Important! Try to go back and forth between who shares their light bulb, questions, and arrows. If you’re prone to dominating discussions, ask God to help you make room for the other person in your discussion. If you are more prone to be a wallflower, ask God for confidence (in HIM) to contribute.**
- b. The Directed Question Method – Inspired by DMM (**Disciple-Making Movements ministry**). **DMM has put together some great questions that form a pillar of their “Discovery Bible Study” format, which is centered on small group evangelistic studies. We have modified their 7 questions into the following 6 for this initiative, but by all means – read their materials and feel free to use their questions (or others you discover)! We like the format for many reasons: first, it focuses on the Word vs the teacher. In fact, the facilitator is encouraged to say very little beyond the questions themselves, encouraging the people in the study to look into Scripture for answers rather than the knowledge of the facilitator (this can be easier to do in a group format than one-on-one, and so you may choose to have more of a discussion-based format vs a facilitated one, which can build deeper relationships). Second, the questions move from “outward” focus – general questions about God and mankind – to “inward” focus – questions about the implications and applications to our individual lives – and then to a “witness” focus – how we apply these truths in our lives and in our relationships with others.**
- i. Read through the passage at least once, preferably more. **Again, reading aloud brings both reading and hearing into the equation.**
 - ii. Ask the following questions, share, and discuss with each other:
 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?" – **Notice how this moves from a general "observation" focus of the past 2 questions to a more personal focus.**
 4. "How will we apply this to our lives this week?" – **Now we're in a tough place – realizing that Scripture just doesn't tell us what is so, but what it means when we endeavor to live Scripture, not just know it.**
 5. "How can we help each other do these things?" – **Praying for each other of course! But also holding each other accountable – perhaps a mid-week phone call to check if I actually did approach the person I had wronged to ask for forgiveness. "Practical" helps could be in here as well – "Can I give you a ride to that meeting?" "Can I help you sort through those things you need to get rid of?"**
 6. "Who can each of us tell about what we've learned?" – **Witness is one of the hardest areas of obedience to tackle. This doesn't always have to be a full up "Romans Road" Gospel presentation. It could simply be saying something (to a believer or nonbeliever), "You know, I've recently started reading the Bible with a friend – we just meet informally once a week to go over a little bit at a time – and it is changing my life..."**
- c. "COMA" Method: Context, Observation, Meaning, Application – **Again taken from Helm's book – we're not wild about the acronym, but it's a good tool. The book has many sets of questions in this format for specific books or types of books, which we are making available or adapting.**
- i. Read the passage aloud – **See a common thread?**
 - ii. Ask context questions: **Who wrote this and to whom? What were the issues facing the audience? What was the purpose of the Scripture? What was the style and purpose – to give an account of events? A song of worship or lament? A letter of encouragement or admonition? To challenge or rebuke?**

- iii. Ask observation questions: **What do you “see” in the passage. What is happening? What is being said? What stands out? What concepts are repeated? What other passages are referenced or pointed to?**
 - iv. Ask meaning questions: **What does this mean? Is there a commandment to be obeyed? Is there a truth to learn or apply? Is there an aspect of God or his kingdom to be learned? What does it say about God, creation, mankind, the Christian life, relationships, witness, etc.?**
 - v. Ask application questions: **How will I apply this Scripture to my life and relationships (with God, people, and creation)?**
- III. Prayer – **We ought to open and close with prayer! You might start by asking specific ways you can pray for the person and challenges they are facing, but as you do that, consider how the Scripture you just read and discussed might apply to those requests!**
- a. Thanks to God for speaking to you through Scripture and prayer
 - b. For guidance, clarity, and direction in applying what you have heard to your lives
- IV. Schedule/Confirm Your Next Meeting! **Don’t forget this! Consistency is a great tool!**

WHAT Should We Read?

- I. Make it Contextual! Choose a book of the Bible to read based upon who you are, who you are reading with, and what you are facing in your lives.
- II. Suggestions for Reading with Non-Christians: **What is the greatest need of non-Christians? To meet God and to have a restored, spirit-filled relationship with the Father through Christ. So, pray that the Spirit will use Scripture to introduce the person to God and Jesus and to instill a hunger for that redeemed relationship!**
 - a. Who is Jesus? The Gospels
 - i. We will be going through the Gospel of Mark this Fall at FCBC – Read along!
 - ii. Gospel of John

- b. Who is God? Genesis 1-12
- III. Suggestions for Reading with New Christians – **What do you most appreciate about Scripture coming alive in you when you were a new Christian (or what do you wish had happened)? Realize that for some of us – even long-time Christians – who did not have strong discipleship relationships before, it may be important to learn the basics of our faith before we jump into deeper waters!**
- a. What Does Being a Christian Mean, and How do I Grow? Colossians, Titus, Philipians
 - b. Gospel of Mark – **The “action” Gospel.**
 - c. A Quick Overview of the Christian Life – Assurances and Living the Gospel: 1 John – **This is a great, short epistle full of essentials for Christian living.**
- IV. Suggestions for Reading with Established Christians
- a. How Do I Mature in Faith? Romans – **Romans is a long book. If you’re going to cover it verse-by-verse, it will take a long commitment. For a shorter series, you might consider going through the elements of the salvation story by following the “Romans Road” and discussing it (and applying it to real-world witness!)**
 - b. How Do I Trust in God, Cry Out to God, and Obey God? Psalms – **Perhaps a single psalm to soak in, or a series of a certain type of psalm (lament, praise, confession, etc), or an overview of the psalms.**
- V. Suggestions for Specific Phases of Life:
- a. Trials: James, Job, Ruth
 - b. Parenting: Proverbs
 - c. Marriage: Ephesians, Song of Songs
- VI. Regardless what you choose, God’s Word will not return void! (Isaiah 55:11)

The Way Ahead - Review

- I. Find a person with whom to meet – **Again, bathe this process in prayer!!!n**
 - 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 – **This is not a “last resort,” but start with prayer and consider “a” and “b” above. We would love to put you in touch with people you might ask, or help you to consider where to look, and of course, to pray with you!**
- II. Set a time and choose a book and method – **The method is not nearly as important as gathering to pray and read, nor as important as the next step...**
- III. Commit! **Commit to each other, and commit to God!**
- IV. Ask for Help! **One of the most powerful answers to a question is “I don’t know.” Don’t be afraid to admit you don’t know everything. Commit to each other that you will seek the answers to the tough questions over the week and then call each other to tell what you have learned. Ask other Christ-followers (and not just elders and pastors, though we are happy to help you find those answers). Read other parts of Scripture. Research...**
- V. Tell Others About Your Experience! **Tell other believers as well as non-believers. We believe this WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE! Tell people how it has.**
- VI. Encourage Others to Join In! **Ask another person to start reading with you (or with your partner). But you don’t need to be the only person doing this – find a person to read with them, or tell a pastor about the person so we can help pair them up!**

QUESTIONS? THOUGHTS? COMMENTS?