

## Self-Study Tools

### 1. Foundations: Who is Jesus? What is the Bible?

- Free book (PDF): <http://tiny.cc/bible101>

### 2. Salvation: The Only Way to Eternal Life

- How to Get Right with God: <http://tiny.cc/trustjesus>

### 3. Prayer: Listening & Talking to God

- **Worship:** Honor God. - **Praise:** Love God.

- **Thank** God for everything. - **Ask** for wisdom & needs.

### 4. Bible Application: God Living Through Me

- To study & apply the Bible properly, we need to know the context of each book: <http://tiny.cc/context>

- **Bible Study Questions:** <http://tiny.cc/biblequestions>

#### A. Explore It: Observe Basic Facts.

- **Setting:** Identify people, places, events, and details.

- **OT or NT?** Type of book? Who is writing / speaking?

- When, where, why, and **to whom was it written?**

- What is being said? Key topics, lessons, phrases, etc.

- Notice: Emphasis, tone, if / then, cause-effect, Q & A.

- Imagine yourself as part of the storyline and setting.

#### B. Get It: Interpret God's Intended Meaning.

- **Word meanings:** What *terms* are being used? Words are used in different ways to mean different things.

- **Proper context:** Always read what comes **before & after** a word, verse, passage or chapter (**critical**).

- How does this relate to the rest of the book & Bible?

- Be aware of historical and cultural contexts.

- Should I interpret the text literally or figuratively?

- Is the text **prescriptive** (to do) or **descriptive** (FYI)?

- What does this teach me about Jesus? Self? Others?

- What is the timeless truth that God is teaching me?

- Let Scripture interpret Scripture (use cross refs).

- Lastly, use Bible study tools to verify the meaning.

#### C. Apply It: Trust God to Change My:

- **Actions:** Obedience is God-powered not self-powered.

- **Character:** Attitudes, behaviors, speech & motives.

- **Priorities:** Love God; share Jesus; make disciples.

- **Thinking:** Possess mind of Jesus; see truth vs. error.

- **Witness:** Teach, explain, and model Scripture.

• **Sin** I need to repent of (change my mind)? • **Pray?**

• **Person** I need to love / forgive? • **Meet** a need?

• **Someone** I need to encourage? • **Error** to avoid?

• **Truth** to remember? • **Example** to follow?

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Why are Bible Impact Groups effective?

Anytime you have a model that is **easy to reproduce** and **simple** that includes God's Spirit, God's Word, and God's people working together, accelerated growth *will* take place. Bible Impact Groups create a focused approach to personal discipleship and allows new groups to form quickly and naturally. This is known as 'spiritual multiplication', and is a key part of the commands of Jesus found in Matthew 28:18-20.

### How do I start or join a group? Who leads?

Simply invite 1-2 other Christians to join you in a group. No one person is the group leader. Groups are led by the Holy Spirit using God's Word. God will change your life and use you to reach others.

### What happens when a group grows beyond 3 people?

When a person receives God's free gift of salvation, God makes them a new creation (spiritually). As Christians, it's our personal responsibility to provide them with a **safe place** to learn and grow. Bible Impact Groups allow you to support them, help teach them the Bible, and model for them what it means to be a Christian. If your group grows to 4 people, it should **multiply** into two groups once that new person is faithful to the process (usually after 4 weeks). Each group can then prayerfully invite a new 3<sup>rd</sup> person, and continue the process of reaching / teaching others. As the Holy Spirit works in us to change our lives, and through us to reach people who need Jesus, **spiritual multiplication** will occur **supernaturally**.

### Why should groups be limited to just 3 people?

The best context for life change and multiplication is a group of 3 people (same gender). The God-head exists in a community of three, and this type of grouping is found throughout the Bible. If we want to see **God change lives**, we need to rely on His power as we apply His Word (the Bible). This is achieved most effectively in a **safe environment** like Bible Impact Groups where mutual trust, encouragement, and transparency are core values.

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## Bible Impact Groups

(updated 6/26/19)

Jesus (God) instructs his followers to "**GO**" and "**MAKE DISCIPLES**" by teaching people how to:

- Get right with God (one time): **Believe God**
- Live by God's power (daily): **Trust God**
- Love God & each another (daily): **Love God**

**Bible Impact Groups** help us live out Jesus' commands without relying on church leaders or special training.



### How Groups Work:

- Meet weekly for 60 minutes.
- Consist of 3 people (same gender).
- Designed to be extremely...

- Simple**
- Biblical**
- Life-Changing**

### Other Details:

- **No pressure:** Anyone can start (or join) a group.
- Requires **no leader** (God leads).
- Requires **no curriculum** or workbook (Bible only).
- Requires **no training** or prior Bible knowledge.
- Helps you **grow closer to God**.
- Equips you to **share life**, not just information.
- Goal: **spiritual maturity**



God will use this biblical model to change your life while creating a **reproducing community** where no one stands alone, struggles alone, or develops alone.

Free Downloads: <http://whytrustjesus.org>

## Weekly Meeting Format

- Open in Prayer:** (5 min)
  - Pray as a group though Psalm 119:18 & 139:23-24.
  - Ask God to speak to you during this time of reflection.
- Ask Personal Responsibility Questions (PRQ):** (10 min)
  - Goal:** Fellowship & transparency in a safe environment.
  - Take turns asking / answering 3 PRQ's (rotate weekly).
  - Be honest, but *brief* (1 minute per person / answer).
- Discuss Last Week's Bible Readings:** (20 min)
  - Goal:** Be transformed into image of Christ.
  - Involves God's Word, God's Spirit, and God's people.
  - Hebrews 4:12 teaches that Scripture is alive & powerful.
  - Purpose of the Bible: 2 Timothy 3:10-17

### Questions for personal study / group discussions:

- Is what I'm reading Old Covenant or New Covenant?
- To whom is the passage written? Why?
- Is God teaching, rebuking, correcting, or training?
- How can I apply this to my life? (thoughts / actions)
- Is there anything that I need to study further?

- Choose Daily Readings for Next Week:** (5 min)
  - Refer to file: 'Daily Reading Plan' (see link below)
  - Download at: <http://tiny.cc/bibleimpactgroups>
  - Did all members complete last week's Bible readings?
    - YES:** Choose a new daily reading plan for next week.
    - NO:** Repeat the same plan from last week.
  - Read** 2-4 chapters daily. Afterwards, go back to...
  - Pray & reflect** on any verses that God points out to you.
  - As a guide, use the questions above from section #3.
- Group Planning - How to Show God's Love:** (5 min)
  - Goals:** Love people. Introduce them to Jesus (God).
  - List 3 people who need Jesus as Savior and Lord.
  - Pray for 1 person 2x weekly using the 'Outreach Prayers'
  - Find practical ways to love them (this week & ongoing).
  - Encourage; help meet needs; start spiritual discussions.
  - No interest? Keep praying & loving; allow God to work.
- Share Group Needs:** (10 min)
  - Any personal needs, struggles, or burdens.
  - Be open, but relatively brief (3-5 min. max per person).
  - Pray, support, and encourage each other this week.
- Close in Prayer:** (5 min) **Suggestions to pray for...**
  - God's power to lead and direct your life this week.
  - Your family; your pastor(s); your friends.
  - Opportunities to reach / teach people about Jesus.

## Personal Responsibility Questions

Remember that **God loves you** unconditionally. Getting to heaven and being accepted by God have nothing to do with your day-to-day performance or being good. It's a result of **what Jesus (God) has done for you.** (Eph. 2:8-9, Titus 3:3-7)

Growing as a Christian isn't about religion or a list of do's & don'ts - it's about a **personal relationship** with God. You become a 'new creation' (spiritually) the moment God saves you. You can never lose this! God's Spirit instantly begins to live in you. As we study God's Word (the Bible), and rely on his Holy Spirit to guide us, we'll naturally obey the two New Testament commands: Love God and love people **selflessly** and **sacrificially.** (John 13:34-35, Luke 10:27)

Your goal is to allow **God to live through you** so that your 'new life' reflects the character and priorities of Jesus. When you fall short, **thank God** that He already forgave you, and refocus your life on Jesus (rather than yourself).



Examine yourself **weekly** by answering:

- This past week, I'm most **thankful to God** for \_\_\_\_.
- Am I spending **quality time** with God through prayer, Bible study, and solitude?
- Has any **bitterness** or **pride** formed in my heart?
- When did I last **talk about Jesus** with a non-Christian?
- Did I hurt anyone this week with my **thoughts, words, actions** - or lack thereof? How did I make amends?
- In general, am I allowing **God's Spirit** to lead my life (Gal. 5:22-23) or am I relying on my own power (flesh)?
- To show a genuine interest in others, do I normally **ask questions** and **listen** more than I talk?
- Am I using my life for **God's glory**? (spiritual gifts, time, money, talents, decisions, teaching others about Jesus)
- Am I taking care of **my health** through proper eating, sleeping, and exercise habits?
- Who can I **love** today? (offer godly advice, forgive, pray for, meet needs, encourage, disciple, teach, etc.)

## Jesus is God

There is overwhelming evidence that:

- Jesus is God.**
- Only the **Bible** is **100% accurate & trustworthy.**
- Jesus** is the **only way to heaven.**

## Free Tools

- Biblical Evidence: <http://tiny.cc/whytrustjesus>
- How to Know God: <http://tiny.cc/knowgod>
- First Steps: <http://tiny.cc/bibleimpactgroups>

## Outreach Prayers

As Christians, we want to reach the people we love by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ so they can experience '**new life**' and be **prepared for eternity.** Use the prayers below as a "heart guide".

### God, I pray that you please...

- Give me a broken heart for people in my life who do not know Jesus as Lord and Savior. (**John 4:35**)
- Help me be ready to share biblical truth with people in a loving, but clear way. (**1 Peter 3:15-16**)
- Draw and reveal yourself to \_\_\_\_\_. (**John 6:44**)
- Prevent Satan from blinding \_\_\_\_\_ to the truth that Jesus is God, and trusting in Him is the only way to spiritual life / heaven. (**2 Cor. 4:4; John 14:6**)
- Reveal the depth of your love to \_\_\_\_\_ as shown by Jesus' willing and sacrificial death as complete payment for (his/her) sins. (**John 3:16**)
- Help \_\_\_\_\_ understand that eternal life is a free gift based solely on your love, grace, and mercy. There is nothing that we can do to earn this. (**Eph. 2:8-9**)
- Convict \_\_\_\_\_ of the need to turn from the sin of unbelief by trusting Jesus alone for forgiveness of sin and eternal life. (**Titus 3:3-7; John 16:7-9**)
- Once you save \_\_\_\_\_, please give (him/her) the power to love you and teach others about you. (**John 14:15; Mat. 28:18-20**)