

ONE to ONE Bible Reading

As disciples of Jesus we're called (given the privilege and responsibility) to make disciples. But HOW? One expression of that is to walk with someone "ONE to ONE" through part of the Bible. But where do you begin? And how long should you meet? What is the goal? What if you don't know all the answers to their questions? These are just a few of the questions we'll discuss. We'll also walk through a passage of scripture in real time discussing what it might look like to do the same with someone else. From college students to parents, from young professionals to retirees, ONE to ONE Bible reading is a simple and effective way to help make disciples.

What is it? Intentional relationships centered on God's Word. No graduate degrees required!
The result? Self-initiating, reproducing disciples of Jesus!

ALL Christians are called and have the **privilege**, joy and **responsibility** of being involved in discipling others. Ephesians 4:14-16; Hebrews 3:12-13, 10:24-25; Colossians 3:16

- Do you desire to read and understand the Bible more?
- Do you want to help others do the same?
- Have you ever thought about meeting with someone one to one to go through a book of the Bible?

It's important for us to hit the pause button and ask a very important question: what is THIS about? What are we doing here? Why are we gathering like this? We're all so different but our common bond is Jesus. Our interest in, love for, obsession with Jesus. So in light of that, what are WE called to do *together*? Make disciples! What does that look like in our lives? Are we complicating discipleship? My prayer for us has been that we would be *disciples who make disciples to impact the city of St. Pete*.

When we set out to make disciples a number of things happen:

1. We **obey** King Jesus (Matthew 28:19-20)
2. We find joy and fulfillment
3. We grow in our faith (stretched)
4. Our vision for mission broadens
5. Our **dependency** on God deepens
6. Missionaries are raised up and sent out - churches are planted

Mission happens when there's an overflow of love and joy for God - a true brokenness for the lost - a longing to see others experience the grace, love and truth we have in Jesus. We all need to be reminded of this calling. We get distracted; we're forgetful.

Imagine with me that you have:

- A co-worker or neighbor who is not really a church person
- A new believer - a single girl at church - been attending but not "involved" - or maybe she is "involved" but just not connecting
- A young person with no dad at home. Struggling at school. Not happy with how he/ she looks. Attends church because mom does.

What if I gave *you* the responsibility to come up with a plan for the spiritual growth / discipleship of all three of these people or people in similar situations?

Where would you begin? Send them to an event, register them for a class?

What if you decided to take them by the hand and lead them through a book of the Bible? A set book, for a set amount of time, in a set place?

Often called one to one Bible reading. = Intentional relationships centered on God's Word. No graduate degrees required!

Payne and C. Marshall in *The Trellis and the Vine*: "Imagine if all Christians, as a normal part of their discipleship, were caught up in a web of regular Bible reading – not only digging into the Word privately, but reading it with their children before bed, with their spouse over breakfast, with a non-Christian colleague at work once a week over lunch, with a new Christian for follow up...with a mature Christian friend once a month for mutual encouragement. It would be a chaotic web of personal relationships. Prayer and Bible reading- more of a movement than a program-but at another level it would be profoundly simple and within reach of all."

Who is this for? A non-Christian, new Christian, old, young, despairing, calloused, etc. Your wife, children, neighbor, co-worker, friend, cousin, someone you strike up a conversation with. It's an opportunity, in a culture that for the most part has very little knowledge of the God of the Bible, to take them by the hand and show them the God of the Bible – show them the Jesus, not of our own making / imagination, but taking them to the authority on the person of Jesus.

The benefits of reading *one to one* are huge!

1. Salvation

"...apart from God's word to us about Jesus, it is impossible for a person to know how to be forgiven of sin and accepted by him." 1 Peter 1:23; Romans 10:10-14

We get to bring others to the Jesus of the Bible, not the Jesus of our own imaginations or the Jesus of our culture. We get to bring them to the "source" and let them see Jesus for who he is.

2. Sanctification

Christians are called to

- encourage one another
- build one another up
- instruct one another
- speak truth to one another
- teach and admonish one another with the wisdom of Christ's word
- stir up one another to love and good works

1 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 3:13; Ephesians 4:29; 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Timothy 3:16

3. Training

This can be a great time to identify and train people for ministry responsibilities.

4. Relationship

Community unlike anything the world has to offer!

Who is this for?

- Before becoming a Christian
- Right after becoming a Christian

- A Christian ready to lead and serve

Sphere of influence

Where are you living, playing, going to school, or working TODAY that you won't be in the future?

What if we lived with the intentionality of a missionary? AS IF we were on mission? WE ARE!

"If I were a missionary to another nation, how would I view my life? What decisions would I make about where I live or how much I need to live on? Where would I spend my time so I could form friendships with unbelieving people? What would I seek to learn about the culture so I could befriend and clearly communicate the gospel? What are the idols and false gods people are worshipping?"

How do you get started?

PRAY, INVITE, PLAN TO MEET

61% of young unchurched people would be open to this idea.

What could a typical meeting look like?

Pray and read. Talk together. Listen a lot. Ask good questions. Don't be afraid of not having all the answers! Enjoy the friendship that's forming.

Apply the passage to everyday life. Pray. Confirm your next mtg.

Put your faith in the power of the Holy Spirit!

Let's do this!

We're going to briefly walk through Mark 1:1-15.

My desire is to help us see the power of walking someone through a few verses and hopefully help demystify the call to make disciples.

Final thoughts

To be a disciple is to be a disciple-maker.

Making Disciples involves *teaching* others what Jesus did and said.

There is no discipleship without that element. In addition disciple making needs to happen within the context of community. Why? People typically need to see the gospel while they're sharing the gospel (in order to hear the gospel).

It's helpful to remember we're part of something far bigger than ourselves and far greater than anything we alone can accomplish. God's kingdom has come in the person of the King Jesus. AND God's kingdom is coming as the Holy Spirit brings people into the kingdom by his saving power.

One to one Bible reading is not the only form of discipleship! 1 Thessalonians 1:6-10

Pray and be ready for God to open a door.

Be intentional. Set a time and place and be faithful. This isn't a year commitment.

Read, make observations and ask questions.

Don't be concerned if you don't have all the answers to their questions!

Don't think it's up to you to impress them with your knowledge.

Don't try to teach the passage to them. Let the Scriptures speak!

Enjoy getting to know the person. Eat with them. Invite them into your life.