

# ONE TO ONE GUIDE

**LOCAL**

• CHURCH •

ST. PETE

## INTRODUCTION

Imagine that you know...

- a co-worker or neighbor who is not really a “church person”
- a single girl who just started following Jesus but is not really connected to the church community
- a teenager who struggles in school, has chaos in their family, and is questioning their faith in Jesus

What would you do to help them grow spiritually?

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.

From college students to parents, from young professionals to retirees, one to one Bible reading is a simple and effective way to make disciples. It is an opportunity to take someone by the hand and show them the God of the Bible; to show them Jesus, not one of our own making / imagination, but the authentic Jesus as shown in God’s Word.

*“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.”*

**Colin Marshall and Tony Payne (The Trellis and the Vine)**

## STARTING

The place to start is prayer. Tell God your desire to disciple others. Ask Him to lead you by His Spirit and connect you with an individual who you could walk alongside of and point to Jesus. God hears our prayers and He will guide you to the right person who wants to grow.

Here are a couple options to consider when praying for someone to read through the Bible with -

- A not-yet follower of Jesus - If God has connected you with someone who hasn't yet seen Jesus as their King and Savior, and you have a good relationship with them, they would be a great person to do a ONE-to-ONE with. One of the best ways to have gospel conversations with someone is in the natural flow of reading the Bible together. It doesn't feel forced, and you will learn just as much from the person you are walking alongside.
- A brand-new follower of Jesus - There is no better way to grow in our faith than to read and apply the Bible to our life in the context of community. Anyone who trusts in Jesus and desires to walk in His way needs guidance, encouragement and prayer from other believers.

Who has God placed in your natural sphere of influence? Consider those who are at your workplace or school, a family member, a neighbor, or someone on your sports team.

Perhaps it is someone you have met within the church community, and they haven't yet been discipled.

Once God has given you the clarity of who to approach and ask, remember these things:

- Many people unfamiliar to church have never read an entire book of the Bible for themselves, and yet most people will show interest when you ask them.
- You are not pressuring someone, just asking if they are interested.
- We recommend setting a time frame, such as 6-8 meetings. Whether you meet every week or every other, it helps to clarify expectations.

Pray and ask God to give you the courage and right words to ask someone about a one-to-one. Then, you can ask them something like -

*"Have you ever read through a book of the Bible before? One of the best ways to see who Jesus is and know what he did is by going right to the source. I would enjoy reading together if you're up for it and I would learn a lot from your perspective."*

As you prepare to meet for the first time, remember these things:

- Reading through a portion of Scripture is more about discovering and pointing to Jesus than teaching. Regardless of how long you have been walking in the way of Jesus, you have something to offer someone else.
- God has given you the Holy Spirit, and He promises to speak through His Word and guide us as we discuss the Bible with others. We don't have to have all the answers, we just need to share what we do know and discover things about Jesus together.
- We have guides available that will give organization to your time together. One effective approach is to wait until you are together to read the Scripture. This allows for unfiltered, honest discussion about what the passage means and who Jesus is. Alternatively, you could share the 8 weeks guide with them and each of you could consider the questions ahead of time. Decide which would be better for your scenario.
  - 8 weeks through the Gospel of Mark - perfect for a not-yet believer or a brand-new believer
  - 8 weeks through Colossians - perfect for a brand-new believer

## MEETING TOGETHER

Here is a plan that can help you organize your time together.

### 1. TALK

- Spend just a couple minutes catching up on life. Keep this brief so you can spend almost all your time reading and discussing.

### 2. READ

- Read through the portion of Scripture together
- Read out loud, and take turns reading verses.

### 3. DISCUSS

- Talk about questions that either of you has, things you notice, etc.
- Use one of the “ONE-to-ONE reading guides” to work through the questions for that session.

### 4. PRAY

- This can be a perfect opportunity to model prayer for someone, and a place to learn to pray. If the other individual does not feel comfortable praying yet, that is ok. Ask them if you can pray for them.

## THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Be intentional with meetings. Set a time and place and be faithful.
- Don't try to teach the passage to them. Let the Scriptures speak!
- One to one Bible reading is one form of discipleship. Discipleship Groups and House Groups are other contexts where we can grow.
- Enjoy getting to know the person. Eat with them. Invite them into your life.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you!

## OTHER RESOURCES

*One to One Bible Reading* by David Helm

*The Walk* by Stephen Smallman

**Your most important resource: *The Bible***

Use a translation you understand. The NIV or ESV versions are both accurate and accessible.

You can also find more resources under the “resources” section of our website.