

Why and How should I read the **Bible**?

- 1. Debriefing the Weekly Practice from Last Week:** The Weekly Practice last week was to ask the Holy Spirit who to contact from your list, and then to schedule time with them or simply plan to make contact with them heading into this coming week. How did you experience praying about this? Did the Holy Spirit bring clarity to you on who to connect with? Were you able to schedule time with them? Or do you have a plan to initiate a conversation with them?

Leader Notes:

In some ways, this week will be the most challenging part of the series for most people. Initiating these conversations can be uncomfortable or awkward. To some, they can feel forced and unnatural. But, the more we are actually building relationships with non-believers, the more natural and organic these conversations become.

If some people in your group really don't have established friendships with non-believers, encourage them to simply focus on building the relationship. Invite them to simply initiate some contact with someone from their list. It can be as simple as a text message saying hello and asking how they are doing.

Others may have more developed friendships with non-believers. It might be time to actually ask the spiritual scale question that we talked about last week. Everyone is in a different place, but we all want to be taking steps forward into our clear calling to continue the mission of Jesus.

As with all of our Weekly Practices, we may need to help people work through feelings of shame or guilt for not doing them or not doing them as well as they think they should. Remind them that Jesus paid for all shortcomings and failures. There is no condemnation for those in Jesus (Rom. 8:1). So, we can now boast in our weaknesses because Christ's power is perfected in our

Weekly Practice

If possible, get together with the person you identified in week 4 (coffee, lunch, a walk, etc.)

weakness (2. Cor 12:9-10). As a facilitator, you'll need to model sharing about your own weakness.

That said, continue to encourage your group to take these Weekly Practices seriously. If you don't do them, they won't. As we take steps of faith, God will move, and your group will be inspired! This series is primarily oriented around action and obedience, not just learning and discussing.

PLAY VIDEO

2. What opinions of the Bible have you heard from people you know? Did it surprise you to know that the Bible is the most popular book in the world?

Some say that the Bible has no relevance to our life. It's old and outdated. It's intolerant of contemporary culture. We have advanced beyond it. It is not historical. As believers, we understand the Bible to be the very words of God containing all that we need for life and faith in Him.

3. What in the Alpha video gave you confidence in knowing that the Bible is true and trustworthy? How could that give you confidence in using Scripture to share your faith?

Here are some facts found in the Alpha video:

- *The Bible is the most popular book sold*
- *100 million sold annually*
- *200 million downloads of the You Version Bible app*
- *The Bible is the top seller every week so it is removed from the Best Seller list*
- *The Bible is a collection of books written over 1600 of years by over forty different authors.*
- *One continuous theme and focus - Jesus, the Messiah*
- *The Bible Claims to be the Word of God*
- *The Bible Seems to be the Word of God*
- *The Bible proves to be the Word of God*
- *Written by kings, scholars, fishermen, doctors, etc.*
- *Written in forms of history, poetry, prophecy, and letters*

- *Human authors and Divine inspiration*
- *Many writers - one designer*
- *2 Timothy 3:16 suggests that all scripture is useful to us.*

4. Have you ever found yourself sensing God directing you to initiate a spiritual conversation? How did you sense His leading? Did you wonder if it was really God leading you as opposed to your own thinking? Share an example.

Some in your group may ask the question "How do we know if these thoughts are from God or me?"

Here are a few thoughts: It's a learned process. The more we practice faith, walking forward even if we don't know if God's prompting us, the more we learn how to hear His voice. The discernment factor is not always, "Does God want me to share my faith?" More often, it is, "What is the next step God wants to show me about initiating spiritual conversation with this person?" We already know that God's desire is for us to share Jesus with others, it's often more a question of "how" and "when," not "if."

5. Prior to watching the video, were you familiar with the ABCs of the Gospel (A - Admit I'm a sinner, B - Believe in Jesus and receive his forgiveness, and C - Commit to follow Jesus)? Discuss in more detail what each of the letters stand for? What do you find helpful about this tool? (Imagine someone on your list...) What sort of feelings does it bring up when you think about sharing this with someone?

Rooted, Week 1 Day 5 highlights the ABCs - if your group has gone through Rooted, this will be a good reminder!

A - Admit I'm a sinner, in need of saving from my own failures and inability to live according to God's standards.

B - Believe in Jesus and in his death and resurrection which accomplishes forgiveness on our behalf, clearing away all guilt, so that we might have new and unending life with Jesus.

C - Commit to follow Jesus, trusting in his promises and in his direction for our life as we submit and surrender to him in all things.

Some may feel fear or anxiety. Some may be excited. Help the group to realize both sides of the emotions and help them to move toward the middle.

6. **Grab a partner in your group and share the ABCs of the Gospel with each other. Feel free to use your own words, but keep it concise (30 seconds per person). Debrief all together as a group.**
7. **Read Romans 10:13 as a group. This verse is a promise to us All. In light of this verse, think about your list of people that you've been praying through. Is there anyone on that list that you have lost hope that they might "call on the Name of the Lord?" Describe the situation and the barriers to faith in this person's life.**
8. **Weekly Practice: If possible, get together with the person you identified in week 4 (coffee, lunch, a walk, etc.). As you're comfortable, engage in some casual conversation. Ask them about their spiritual background, maybe using the "spiritual scale" question to help you. If you sense God opening the door, share the ABC's of the Gospel. Or, if getting together is not feasible, simply make contact with that person this week (a text message, a phone call, stop by their cubicle, walk by their home, etc.).**
9. **As a group right now, listen to the song ["Your Will, Your Way"](#). As you listen and reflect on the words, ask God what He might want to remind you of. Maybe you are thinking about the person on your list who you are feeling hopeless about. Maybe you are thinking about your scheduled coffee this week with the person from your list. Maybe you are fearful of initiating this conversation, or maybe you aren't even sure you want to. Allow God to meet you wherever your mind and heart are right now.**

After the song, debrief your experience in prayer together. Did you sense God meeting you or moving you during that time? If so, how? Conclude your group time by praying together for God to lead you in your steps of faith this week.