



Week 1: February 2-8

10min

Welcome / Introduce Guests

Celebrate Relational Connections from the Last Week / Open in Prayer / Recall the Guidelines

Share the Vision: Our method for studying and discussing the Bible in our small group is called "storying." Storying is a tool for disciple-making that Jesus used often. Storying is great because anyone can make disciples through storying. The first step is to ask someone you are in relationship with to meet with you for Bible Study. If they say "yes," set up the time and start meeting to disciple them through storying!

2min

2min

Retell Last Week's Story: Luke 5:27-32 (Jesus calls Matthew to be His disciple)

5min

Hook Question: Jesus invited Matthew into a discipleship relationship. Matthew followed, and Jesus storied with Matthew to teach Him the truth. Who could you invite to story with you in a discipleship relationship?

2min

Ask someone from your team to read or tell the following background for the story:

For the first thirty or so years of His life, Jesus apparently did not perform any miracles. He waited, depending on the Holy Spirit for God's timing. Jesus grew up in His hometown of Nazareth. The town was not extremely large and many people in the town would have known exactly who He was and would have watched Him grow up. They did not know Jesus as the Messiah – they knew Him as Mary and Joseph's son.

When His time had arrived to begin his public ministry, Jesus went out to the place where John the Baptist was preaching. John baptized Jesus at the Jordan River and, when Jesus came up out of the water, the sign of God's anointing on Jesus was clearly seen and heard by others. The Holy Spirit ascended on Jesus like a dove and God spoke and said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

After His baptism, Jesus went into the wilderness for 40 days to fast, pray, and be tempted by the devil. The devil brought His best efforts to tempt Jesus to sin. After withstanding the temptations from Satan, the Bible says that Jesus departed from the wilderness and returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit. Jesus's anointing brought power to fulfill His purpose. Upon arriving, Jesus began to perform miracles in the towns in that area. Shortly after returning to the area of Galilee, Jesus stopped in His hometown. This visit was different. These people who knew Him from before did not expect Jesus, whom they had watched grow up, to teach with power and authority. Jesus was operating under a new anointing. This is where our story begins...

12min

Tell the story from Mark 6:1-6: Remember to change up the storyteller often.

Rebuild the story: Group members retell the story based on what they remember.

Read the story from Mark 6:1-6: Ask the group to read these verses.

Discussion Questions: learn to talk about God's Word with others...

Head Questions: Quicker tempo.

- What do you like or dislike about this story? What stands out to you the most?
- What does this story teach us about people?
- What does this story teach us about God?

Heart & Hand Questions: Slow down & wait!

- What do you think God is trying to show you through this story and our discussion?
- Who could retell the story for us right here one last time?

Thank your storyteller for sharing the Word. Ask for a volunteer storyteller for next week. Close in prayer.

ANointed

*The power to perform
your purpose*

Week 1: Reading the Bible Together in 2020

Reading the Scriptures together has proven to be a delightful endeavor for our church this year! God has been using His Word to encourage us individually and corporately. Church history has proven that God's Word is so powerful and effective when it is read together in Christian community.

Because this is a year-long effort, we want to take another opportunity to encourage you to read Scripture with us every day and to lead your teams to join you. As you read personally and cast vision for others to read, consider these important concepts...

1. **Abide in Christ.** According to John 1, Jesus and the Word are ONE. Reading Scripture is unlike any other reading because greater familiarity with those pages equals greater familiarity with God. When Jesus was revealing Himself to others, He did not want them to identify Him as the Messiah based on His many miracles. Jesus wanted others to identify Him based on what the Scriptures said about Him: "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me" (John 5:39). The primary point of reading the Scriptures is not about reading, it is about knowing Jesus more intimately. The Scriptures and Jesus are ONE. As you read, abide in Him.
2. **Feed Yourself Spiritually.** Jesus referred to the Scriptures as substance: "Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God'" (Matthew 4:4). The Word of God is nourishment for your soul. The word "disciple" literally means "learner." As a disciple of Jesus, take initiative to feed yourself spiritually. Let the Word of God give nourishment to your soul. Allow His Word to fill you up so that you will be equipped to depend on His anointing and to do His work.
3. **Share His Word Relationally.** Don't be afraid to talk about what God is showing you in Scripture! Share your thoughts with other people in our church and in your small group. Ask questions when you don't understand. Share your thoughts with your co-workers. Post your thoughts to social media. If you are reading in YouVersion, respond to the daily "Talk It Over" section. Let God's Word give life to you and others as your lips declare His truth.