



Group Session

Small Group Study

Overview

This introductory session provides an opportunity for members of the small group to become familiar with one another, if not already. The focus is on personal introductions with plenty of time for informal conversations, allowing people an opportunity to grow comfortable with the group.

To access the Bible Engagement Project library from a computer, visit App.BibleEngagementProject.com.

Engage

Welcome to **Listen**. This series is named **Listen** because the Bible is not like any other book. It is living and active. It's the inspired Word of God, and He wants to speak with us throughout our faith journey. So when we open the Bible, we should be prepared to listen to Him.

QUESTION

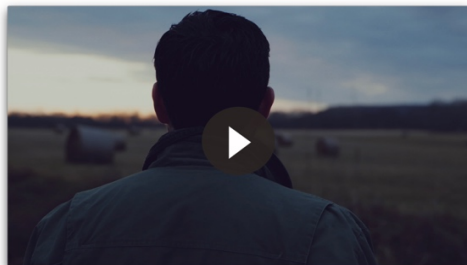
What are you looking forward to about our **Listen** journey together?

Watch

Each time we gather for our Group Session, we're going to watch a video that goes with the session's Bible passage. Today's video will further unpack the journey we are about to undertake together. As we watch the video together, consider this question:

QUESTION

Have you ever experienced a time when you were reading the Bible and God spoke to you through His Word? Tell us about it.



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Consider

The Bible should be central to our lives. It is God's love letter to us, and His instruction manual for how we should live. God's Word provides wisdom when we need it, healing when we are hurt, comfort when we are in difficulty, encouragement when we feel down, and so much more.

*Being familiar with the Bible and knowing what it says allows us to discern God's way from the world's ways. Our Faith Verse for the first volume of **Listen** sessions, Psalm 119:11, reminds us of this concept. If you have kids who are participating in the **Listen** journey, they will be learning this verse over the next few weeks.*

***Listen** provides the opportunity to walk through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation in forty sessions, divided into ten volumes. Along the way, let's pray that God will speak to us through the pages of Scripture.*

The Bible is not just another book. It's the Word of God. It's alive and active and has the power to transform lives and bring salvation to people.

QUESTION

Would anyone like to briefly share your faith journey with the group?

This **Listen** journey will be twofold. When we meet as a group, we will work through the Group Session section together. This Bible overview will introduce a new featured Scripture portion in each session.

Group Session

Listening in community is important for every believer. God tells us that it isn't good for us to be alone. None of us has all the answers on our own. We need encouragement and accountability from others. We need people who will pray with us and support us as we go through challenges on our journey.

QUESTION

What is the biggest benefit of being a part of a faith community in your opinion?

Personal Devotions

In the Bible Engagement Project app, you will also notice personal devotions that follow each Group Session. While these will help to shed more light on the topic covered with your small group, they will also ensure that we are staying connected to God's Word throughout the week. Research shows that no spiritual discipline has the potential to produce more life transformation than engaging frequently with the Bible. Just spending ten minutes four times per week can make a big impact on our faith journey.

What the Bible Says

If time allows, explore this Bible passage together. If not, consider doing this during your personal devotions time this week.

Let's look at what the Bible says Jesus shared with His disciples on their journey.

The Journey to Emmaus

Read Luke 24:13–35.

This Bible story about two of Jesus' followers takes place after Jesus has been resurrected. Jesus' followers were confused by what had happened. They were hoping that Jesus had come to establish an earthly kingdom, and now their dreams were dead along with Jesus.

QUESTION

Have you ever had a dream that turned out completely different than you expected? Maybe you started one major in college only to realize it was not what you thought. Maybe you moved into your dream home only to find out it was fraught with problems.

QUESTION

Does Jesus' reaction to the two men in Luke 24:25–26 surprise you? Why or why not?

At the beginning of this passage, Jesus' followers shared how disappointed they were that Jesus didn't deliver them from the rule of their Roman oppressors. When they recognize Jesus, they can't wait to tell others about Him.

Reflect

God desires a deep and intimate relationship with His people. He wants to walk with us and talk with us. While God is not limited in the ways He can speak to us, one consistent and time-tested place we can access His voice is in His Word. We just need to listen.

Listen to God

Each session ends with a time of silent reflection guided by some questions. The goal of **Listen** is not only to gain an understanding of God's Word, but also to pause and listen to what God might

want to say to us about what we have read and shared. Be silent for a few moments and reflect on the following question.

Personal Reflection Question

Record your answer to the following question in the space provided or in your personal journal.

QUESTION

What is one thing you hope to hear from God about on this Listen journey?

Prayer Requests

Note any requests from the group and remember to pray for them during the week.

Before next time, continue with the personal devotions. If you have children who are participating in the ***Listen*** journey, find time to enjoy the ***Family Devotions*** together.

Personal Devotion

Listening to God is something we need to do every day. Before you begin each devotion, pray and ask God to speak to you through His Word. Record your answer to the following question in the space provided or in your personal journal.

Day 1

Read Luke 24:13–35.

Look back over the Group Session and your responses to the Personal Reflection Question.

QUESTION

What are you looking forward to most about this journey?

QUESTION

Is there any part of this that scares or intimidates you?

Personal Devotion

Day 2

Read Luke 24:13–32.

If your small group completed the What the Bible Says section, reread the Bible passage if you have time. Then review your responses to the questions. Take time to pray and ask God to guide your faith journey. Then take a few minutes to listen quietly for His Spirit to speak to you.

If your group didn't complete the What the Bible Says section, consider doing it now as part of your devotion time.

The Journey

This Bible story about two of Jesus' followers takes place after Jesus has been resurrected. Jesus' followers were confused by what had happened. They had hoped that Jesus would establish an earthly kingdom, and now their dreams seemed as dead as they thought Jesus was. However, when He appeared to them after His resurrection, Jesus graciously explained to them all that they have misunderstood about Him.

QUESTION

From Luke 24:13–24, how would you describe the men’s attitude about what had happened?

QUESTION

Does Jesus’ reaction to them in Luke 24:25–26 surprise you? Why or why not?

At the beginning of this passage, Jesus’ followers shared how disappointed they were that Jesus didn’t deliver them. Once they recognized Jesus, they couldn’t wait to tell others about Him.

QUESTION

Which of these two responses to Jesus is more like your relationship with Him right now?

Personal Devotion

Day 3

Read Hebrews 4:12–13.

At first glance, these Scriptures may seem intimidating and make us want to hide from God’s probing eyes. After all, who wants all of their motives and intentions laid bare before the God of the universe? However, whether we acknowledge it or not, He already knows us better than we know ourselves. In fact, maybe that’s the point.

QUESTION

Write about a time when you could clearly see a fault or flaw in someone you loved that they could not see about themselves. Or describe a time someone lovingly told you of a fault or flaw in your own life that you did not realize.

QUESTION

When confronted with our faults or flaws, we can choose to pretend they don’t exist or to work through them. Which one is more painful or difficult for you? Which one is better for us in the long run?

Personal Devotion

Day 4

Read 2 Timothy 3:14–17.

As a child, Timothy was raised in the faith by his mother and grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5). They were, at least in part, the trusted source to which Paul is referring. However, it is clear from verses 16 and 17 that at some point the responsibility shifted to Timothy who allowed the Scriptures to be his teacher and equipper.

QUESTION

As young Christians, most of us are taught about the Scriptures by other people. Who first taught you about the Bible? (You can include all of the people/groups of people that come to mind.) What might happen if those people were not trusted sources?

QUESTION

What is the best way to know for ourselves if God’s Word is being taught accurately?

QUESTION

What good works has God shown you that He is preparing you to do?

Personal Devotion

Day 5

Read Psalm 119:1–16.

The Psalmist records the prescription for a life of purity and joy—a life lived according to God’s Word. Wanting this kind of life for himself, the Psalmist then lovingly commits to seeking, knowing, and obeying God’s Word. Ultimately, we see his deep desire to not only receive the benefits of this kind of life, but also to please God and honor Him.

QUESTION

Which of the phrases do you relate to most?

QUESTION

List all the things the Psalmist had done to learn and understand God’s Word.

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QUESTION

On this journey, we want to listen to what God is teaching us. Do you see any phrases that indicate that the Psalmist believed God was interacting with him through His Word?