



HARRIS CREEK LIFE GROUP

CURRICULUM



WEEK 1 /// BIBLICAL OVERVIEW

DISCUSS

Do you have a favorite story, passage, or verse in scripture? What is it and why?

WATCH

Watch the video [“Biblical”](#) from the Harris Creek Community Team as a group to begin your time together.

After watching the video, discuss the following questions:

- What’s the difference between a group Bible study and a group that studies the Bible? Why is this distinction so important?
- On a scale of 1-10, how comfortable are you reading and discussing scripture with others? Why did you give the number that you chose?

READ

Have someone in the group read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 out loud.

UNDERSTAND

After reading the passage, discuss the following questions as a group:

- What does it mean that all scripture is “God-breathed”? Why is that phrase so important?
- It was mentioned that scripture is useful in four ways: teaching, correcting, rebuking, and training in righteousness. What are the differences between those four? How has scripture been most useful to you in the last 12 months?
- Verse 17 tells us that scripture equips us for every good work. What does that verse mean? How have you seen that verse play out in your life?

APPLY

There is no “right” way to study scripture, but there are a few different methods that have helped many people along the way. Over the next three weeks, we want you to try out one method per week while you read scripture each day. This week, try out the “Observation, Interpretation, Application” method. Next week, you can discuss what you learned with your group!

OBSERVATION: “What does it say?” or “What do I see?”

- As you look at the verse, what words stick out? Are any words repeated?
- Look at the context of the verse and passage, specifically looking at the verse prior and following.
- Is the passage/verse a question, statement, or command?
- Is the writer describing something or recounting a story or narrative? What did the author see when they wrote the passage?
- Try to put yourself in their shoes and make some observations.
- Practically, you can mark anything you observe in your Bible or in a journal.

INTERPRETATION: “What does it mean?”

- What do you think the author intends in this passage? This is where you can ask a bunch of questions of the text and where you seek to find answers to those questions.
- For example, if you studied John 11:35 (“Jesus wept”) you could ask: Why is Jesus crying? What led Him to start crying? Are there any other times Jesus wept?
- As you study the passage and its context, you put your questions and answers together as you attempt to interpret the verse/passage.

APPLICATION: “How does it work?” or “What do I do?”

- Now that we’ve made some observations and made efforts to understand what the scripture means, we need to figure out what we do with it.
- How does this passage apply to me? What do I do about it? How will this passage impact my life or the lives of those around me?
- James 1:22-25 describes a man who looks in the mirror and sees what he looks like and then turns around and forgets what he saw in the mirror. We don’t want to be people who look into God’s Word and forget what it says. Rather, we want to be people who allow God’s Word to change and transform us, so that we might become more and more like Jesus Christ.



WEEK 2 /// A BIBLICAL PERSON

DISCUSS

Start off your time together answering the following questions:

- What did you learn about scripture from trying out the “Observation, Interpretation, Application” study method? Was that new to you?
- Is reading scripture on a consistent basis easy or difficult for you on a personal level? Why or why not?
- It’s been said that you need three regular rhythms to help you study the Bible on a consistent basis: a time, a place, and a plan. Do you have those 3? What are they? If not, how can this group help you come up with all three?

READ

Have someone in the group read Psalm 1 out loud.

UNDERSTAND

After reading the passage, discuss the following questions as a group:

- What sticks out to you when you read Psalm 1? What does this passage tell us about pursuing God and His Word?
- What’s the difference between meditating on God’s Word and reading God’s Word?
- How can we discern what God’s will is for our lives? How can you know the difference between what is righteous and what is wicked?
- What are the benefits to you learning how to read and understand God’s Word on your own?



APPLY

There is no “right” way to study scripture, but there are a few different methods that have helped many people along the way. Last week you tried the “Observation, Interpretation, Application” method. This week, try another set of questions to ask yourself each day after you read a passage of scripture. With a journal nearby, these five questions can help you explore each passage on a deeper level:

- What do you like about this passage? What emotions does this passage stir up in you? What jumps off the page at you?
- What surprises you about this passage? Did you read anything you’d never thought about before? What makes you go, “huh” as you read it?
- What do you learn about God? What does this passage teach you about the character of God? Any attributes of God that this passage highlights?
- What do you learn about humanity? What does this passage teach you about human nature? Any patterns you see that are still repeated today?
- How do you apply these truths to your life? What can you take from this passage and apply to your life right now? How are these truths the same today as they were thousands of years ago?

These questions give us a little bit of everything. They can help you categorize your thoughts, feelings, and convictions after reading a passage. It also gives you an opportunity to apply what you read and live out what it means. Take some time this week and practice this method and come next week ready to report back on how it went!



WEEK 3 /// A BIBLICAL GROUP

DISCUSS

- What did you learn about scripture from trying out the “Five Questions” study method? Was that study method new to you?
- We say at Harris Creek that we want scripture to be our authority, our conscience, and our guide. When you hear that phrase, is it easy or difficult to wrap your mind and heart around?
- There is no shortage of options for you to find a group of people to bond over a common interest. There are all sorts of clubs, organizations, or places you can go to find those outlets. Why is it so important that your Life Group be centered around what God’s Word has to say?

READ

Have someone in the group read Colossians 3:15-17 out loud.

UNDERSTAND

After reading the passage, discuss the following questions as a group:

- Paul is writing this letter to the believers at the church in Colossae. What are all of the instructions he gives them in these 3 verses? Make a list of all the instructions you see.
- Re-read verse 16. What would it look like to teach and admonish one another using scripture?
- How would you respond if someone started teaching or admonishing you from scriptures?
- How can you begin to use scripture as the starting point for your group as you process decisions?



APPLY

There is no “right” way to study scripture, but there are a few different methods that have helped many people along the way. Remember: How you study is less important than the fact that you are studying God’s Word. His Word is a light, it is eternal, and it stands firm (Psalm 119). That said, we want to help equip you as best we can! Over the next three weeks, we want you to try out one method per week while you read scripture each day. So far, we have tried out the “Observation, Interpretation, Application” method and the “5 Question” method. This week’s method is the APPLE method. Grab a journal, Bible, and pen to get started.

A - List any ATTRIBUTES about God you learn or observe from the passage.

(Describe His character. What is He like?)

P - List any PROMISES from God you learn or observe from the passage.

(What has He done? What will He do?)

P - List any life PRINCIPLES hidden in the text.

(Are there commands? What is God asking of His people?)

L - List any LESSONS learned.

(Any sins to avoid? Are there examples of ungodliness? What is God trying to teach His people? What is God trying to teach me?)

E - List any EXAMPLES to follow.

(In what practical way can I implement this truth? What action needs to be taken?)



WEEK 4 /// COUNSELING BIBLICALLY

DISCUSS

What did you learn about scripture from trying out the “APPLE” study method?
Was that new to you?

How do you go about making decisions? Are you impulsive? An overthinker?
Pragmatic? All of the above?

Are you used to counseling other believers from the Bible? Is that concept easy or
difficult for you to grasp?

READ

Read the following verses from the book of Proverbs:

- Proverbs 11:14
- Proverbs 12:15
- Proverbs 15:22
- Proverbs 19:20-21
- Proverbs 27:6

UNDERSTAND

After reading the verses, discuss the following questions as a group:

- What theme(s) do you pick up on after reading the verses from Proverbs?
- Why does scripture repeatedly warn us about making decisions in isolation?
- Spend some time as a group talking through how you would biblically counsel one another through the following hypothetical scenarios:
 - o Spiritual apathy
 - o Pursuing a new dating relationship (*If applicable*)
 - o Marital discord amongst a couple in the group (*If applicable*)
 - o Processing a large purchase (*car, house, etc.*) or decision (*job transition*)



APPLY

For your group to counsel one another biblically, the obvious step one is knowing what the Bible says. As we talked about in week two, it is important for everyone in the group to have a time, place, and plan. Discuss your plan to consistently read God's Word.

Pro tip: Your group's discussion will be even better if you're all reading the same thing! What will you be reading? What plan are you going to follow?

If you're not sure where to begin, try biblereadingplan.org, a free daily resource written by Harris Creek members for Harris Creek members. Each day, we read a chapter a day along with a 3-4 paragraph writeup to help you understand and apply what you read that day. You can have it delivered to your inbox each day by subscribing via the box at the bottom of the page!