

Read the Bible and Pray Every Day Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. On a typical day, what are the first few things you do in the morning?
2. What phone numbers do you have memorized?

Read the following passage: John 15:3-11.

In this passage, Jesus emphasizes how critical it is that we not only *begin* a relationship with Jesus, but *continue* a relationship with Jesus. Jesus repeatedly uses the word “remain” or “abide” to describe this continuing relationship. Without a connection with Jesus, we cannot bear fruit. This connection is not just at an emotional level, it also includes keeping Jesus’ commands.

So how do we do this? How do we stay connected to Jesus and keep his commands? The foundation of any relationship is communication. Our communication with Jesus is built on the Scriptures and prayer. When we read the Scriptures, we are reading God’s message to his people. And when we pray, we communicate to God and he speaks to us by his Spirit.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Why is it so critical to stay connected to Jesus?
2. What are some ways the Scriptures played a key role in Jesus’ life? (See, for example, Luke 4:1-8, 16-21; Matthew 19:3-9.)
3. Read Joshua 1:7-9. What did the Lord instruct Joshua? Why do you think God gave Joshua these instructions at this time?
4. Read Matthew 6:9-13. What does this model prayer teach us about things we should pray for?
5. Read Matthew 7:7-11. Do you pray with faith? What affects your faith when you are praying? What can you do about this?
6. Do you have a regular habit of Bible reading? Explain.
7. Why is it important to understand what the text means before asking the question, “What does the text mean *for me*?” What tools, if any, do you use for Bible study?

8. Read Psalm 119:9-11. Do you have a habit of memorizing Scripture? Why is memorizing Scripture helpful?

Pray