



lifeGroup Leader Resource Packet

WAYS TO READ SCRIPTURE AS A GROUP

- * Reading My Bible: R-R-R-R
- * Reading My Bible: 30 Things
- * Reading My Bible: I-Q-A
- * Reading My Bible: 7 Arrows

WORSHIP AS A GROUP

- * lifeGroup Worship Ideas

PRAY AS A GROUP

- * Top 10 Ways to Pray as a Group
- * lifeGroup Prayer Ideas

WAYS TO WITNESS AS A GROUP

- * lifeGroup Witness Ideas

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- * Top 10 Ways to Help Children Engage in lifeGroup
- * Top 10 Ways to Encourage Discussion around God's Word
- * lifeGroup Word Ideas
- * lifeServe Opportunities in the Church & Community

Ways to Read Scripture as a Group

Reading My Bible: R-R-R-R

This method of reading scripture helps the reader work from understanding the text to applying and incorporating the text into his/her life. This method is a convenient one to have available when reading Scripture with other people. The simple pattern is reproducible and usable for any passage in any type of setting. Not every question applies to every passage – the questions below are just examples of what fits in each category. Be creative in how you work through this process: READ for understanding, REFLECT for meaning, RESPOND for your own life, REMEMBER so it is incorporated into daily living.

PASSAGE:

Read: What's going on? What's the background? Who-What-When?

- What stands out? Is confusing? Surprising?
- Is anything repeated a lot?
- Who is the audience?
- What is the context? Conflict?
- How would you retell this passage?

Reflect: What is the bottom line of what God wants me to know?

- Do I ever act like the people in this passage?
- What emotions am I experiencing while I read this? Why those emotions?
- What is the point? Why is this in the Bible? What is God trying to teach me?
- What do I learn about who God is? Who Jesus is? Who I am?
- How does this passage point to Jesus? Point to the missional heart of God?
- How does this passage encourage me? Challenge me? Point me to God's love?

Respond: So What? How do I apply this passage to my life and allow it to transform me?

- Is God wanting me to start/stop/continue doing something?
- How can this passage affect my relationships at home/work/friends? How does it affect my relationship with God? How does it affect my own attitude?
- Is God wanting me to confess? Praise Him? Thank Him?
- Do I need to surrender anything? How does it teach me to trust Jesus?
- How can this help me learn to live as a missionary?

Remember: How will I not forget what God was speaking to me today?

- How can I remember what God is teaching me today? Write myself a note? Ask someone to remind me? Memorize a verse? Etc.
- How do I want to be held accountable?
- What's the next step?

Ways to Read Scripture as a Group

Reading My Bible: 30 Things

This method of reading scripture allows space and time for the Holy Spirit to specifically speak to our hearts through God's Word. This method is better suited for shorter passages.

Read the passage a few times. Let it sit with you. As insights, ideas, questions, applications come to mind, jot them down.

This method is best done by trying to find "30 Things" in 30 minutes. Adjusting for your lifeGroup schedule, try to do either "5 Things in 5 Minutes" or "10 Things in 10 Minutes".

After each person has had time to record their ideas, spend time sharing what stood out to you. What questions did you have? How did God speak to you in his Word today? What will you do this week because of what you have read?

PASSAGE:

Ways to Read Scripture as a Group

Reading My Bible: I-Q-A

This method of reading scripture is a simple way to reflect on God's Word and apply it to your life. It is an easy one to remember and have in your "toolbelt". It also has a unique aspect of asking you to write down questions that the passage sparks for you – hopefully questions that will keep you thinking about the passage throughout the day.

Read the passage a few times before reflecting on the questions below. In your lifeGroup, you may want everyone to work through the questions on their own before discussing them together. Or, you could do it as a whole group. Be sure that everyone has a piece of paper for recording their own personal Insights, Questions, and Applications.

PASSAGE:

I-Insights:

- What is standing out to you as you read this? What do you notice? What insights do you gain? What is this passage trying to say/teach to you today?

Q-Questions:

- What questions are you left with after reading this? Questions that you want to reflect on? Questions that you want to ask God? Questions that God wants to ask you?

A-Apply:

- How can you apply this passage to your life today? Is there something you want to do or act on? An attitude that needs changed? How can you live out this passage in your life today?

Ways to Read Scripture as a Group

Reading My Bible: 7 Arrows

This method of reading scripture is a powerful way to learn to engage in God's Word. It is perfect for discipling relationships or personal reading. Rather than getting people to simply talk about the Bible, the goal of the 7 arrows is to help people understand the Bible in a deeper way and know how to apply it to their lives. Read the passage and then use the arrows/questions to guide your reflection and discussion of that passage.

PASSAGE:



1. What does this passage say? *Summarize the main point of the passage.*



2. What does this passage mean to it's original audience? *Use study tools, cross references, and adjacent passages to discern the authorial intent for the passage.*



3. What does this passage tell us about God? *What do you learn about the nature and character of God, and specifically His work through Jesus Christ?*



4. What does this passage tell us about man? *What does it say about humanity, sin, and mankind's need for the Gospel?*



5. What does this passage demand of me? *Apply the meaning of this passage to your own life.*



6. How does this passage change the way I relate to people? *How does this text shape how you relate to other believers and how you live on mission in the world?*



7. How does this passage prompt me to pray? *Spend time in prayer, rooted in the Scriptures.*

Worship as a Group

Life Group Worship Ideas

- * Be in silence with God for a while.
- * Find a moving video on God Tube or You Tube by searching popular Christians songs and artists.
- * Play a CD that everyone can sing along to. Worship together DVD's are available in the church library.
- * Have each person pick a word that describes WHO God is. (holy, love, peace, etc.) Have them write that word vertically on a sheet of paper. Using that word, have people make an acrostic of ways they have seen that characteristic of God played out in their lives. For example: LOVE: Listens to my prayers, Outstanding blessings in my life, etc.
- * Have members each pick a favorite Bible verse to read out loud. Have each person talk about why they like that verse.
- * Do a word study. (You will need a concordance or Biblegateway.com) Pick a word and find verses that use that word. Pick words that describe God like hope, compassion, etc.
- * Observe nature. Use Romans 1:20 or Psalm 104 as a catalyst for observing how nature reveals God.
- * Create a human video or actions to a Christian song.
- * Make a license plate for God.
- * Read a portion of scripture and have members illustrate what comes to mind as it is being read.
- * Re-write a psalm.
- * Popcorn read phrases of praise from Psalms. (Open to the book of Psalms and have people pull out praise verses and phrases and read them out loud.)
- * Make a valentine for God.
- * Write God a thank you card. Use real thank you cards for this.
- * Make a Billboard for God. (or a collage using magazines, etc.)
- * Talk Psalm 136 – Read it through one time. Then, give people slips of paper that have the words, "Give thanks to Him who _____" Everyone fills in the blank on as many slips as they can. Put the slips in a basket. Take turns pulling a slip and reading it aloud as the group responds, "His love endures forever."
- * Use sidewalk chalk to create a mural about God in a driveway.
- * Go deeper with songs you choose to listen to or play for worship. Print off the lyrics and search scripture for where the lyrics came from, what attributes of God are shown in the lyrics, etc.
- * Pick one of the following things to have members write on pieces of paper: concerns, blessings, confessions. Put the slips of paper in a can and take them outside to burn them as either a way to turn them over to God or illustrate what forgiveness is.
- * Have one person in your group hold a balloon. As each person shares a concern or burden in their lives, have the person with the balloon blow into it once for each concern or burden. Once done, the person with the balloon should pop the balloon to symbolize a release of those burdens and concerns. Be sure to follow up this time with prayer, thanking God for his love and grace and asking for continued comfort, strength, and patience to handle what comes our way.
- * Responsively read a Psalm.
- * Lead members in a time of testimony. Have them share one of the following:
 - ⇒ Their answered prayers during the week.
 - ⇒ One or two special things God did for them during the week.
 - ⇒ The thing about Christ that makes them follow Him.
 - ⇒ One attribute of God that was demonstrated to them this week.
- * Read Romans 12:1-2. Talk about how worship is lived out by dedicating every action we do to God. Have a time of commitment....committing specific daily tasks to God.
- * Divide up the chapters in Revelation, giving pairs of people each a few chapters. Have everyone list the names of Jesus found in their chapters. Make a large "names of Jesus" poster. Reflect on those names...which one stands out to you and why? Who do you need Jesus to be for you right now?

Pray as a Group

Top 10 Ways to Pray as a Group

1. **Praise God** for who He is, using names and attributes of God.
2. **Pray in Unity.** Pick one topic and each person prays about the same thing.
3. **Pray Scripture,** placing other peoples' names in the verse. Try one of these to get started:
 - "I pray that _____ will grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 3:18)
 - "May _____ grow to find Your Word more precious than much pure gold and sweeter than honey from the comb." (Psalm 19:10)
 - "Father, teach _____ the secret of being content in any and every situation, through Him who gives _____ strength." (Philippians 4:12-13)
4. **Pray Globally.** Pick a country and pray for both believers there and those who don't yet know Jesus.
5. **Pray Locally.** Pray for your neighbors with the acronym BLESS. (Body, Labor, Emotional, Spiritual, Social)
6. **Pray Specifically.** Pray for the person on your left, thanking God for who they are and asking Him for specific needs they may have.
7. **Confess.** Read James 5:16 and confess your sins with a partner.
8. **Give Thanks.** Create a gratitude list and use it to prompt your prayers.
9. **Pray for the leaders,** of this country, your city and your church.
10. **Prayer Walk.** Go for a walk and let what you see prompt your pray.

Pray as a Group

lifeGroup Prayer Ideas

- * Encourage members to pray specifically....not just general prayers, but for specific things.
- * Life all attributes of God. Spend time telling God who He is and praise Him for who He is. Pray specifically for the attribute you need God to be for you that week.
- * Have each person write their prayer requests on a notecard. Put the notecards in a hat. Everyone draws someone else's card and prays for that person. Take the card home and pray during the week.
- * Pray ACTS (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication for others, Supplication for Self".
- * Help "nervous" members learn to pray...give them a short prayer starter. (Thank you God for _____, God ,today I am worried about _____, Lord, please help me to _____ this week).
- * Partner prayer. Have members partner up to pray together.
- * Scripture prayer—Use the scripture from that week's reading and pray the words back to God.
- * Pick a specific top to pray on....school, families, praise, worry, etc.
- * Bring in family photographs...pray for each person in the picture.
- * Rewrite the Lord's Prayer in modern language and pray it together.
- * Pray the Lord's Prayer for your community over 7 days.
- * Popcorn prayers...take turns praying about whatever is on your heart.
- * Give each member a piece of rope. Have them tie 5 separate knots in the rope. Encourage them to pray about a worry or fear for each knot. As they pray, have them untie the knot....giving our fears and worries to God releases them fro our control.
- * Pray using Jesus' prayer in John 17 as a model.
- * Grab a newspaper. Pray over the headlines and people mentioned.
- * Lay out a map. Pray for missionaries and people in different countries. Put lit candles on each country you pray for, asking for God's light to evident there.
- * Write a letter to God.
- * Keep a weekly prayer journal for your group. Every few weeks, go back in the journal and see how God has answered the prayer.
- * Have members write down things they are sorry for or ashamed of on a piece of paper. Spend time in confession. Then, either rip up or throw out or burn the pieces of paper.
- * Prayer walk in your neighborhoods. Pray for things and people you see. Let the Spirit prompt your prayers. Ask people you see if you can pray for them right there—on the spot!
- * Listening prayer—Spend quiet time with God. Ask Him how He wants you to pray. Or, spend time asking Him where he wants you to go and serve or whose needs you can meet that week.
- * List out all the things you are thankful for from A-Z. Pray, thanking God for those things.
- * Pray by names for your impact list. Use the following scripture: Jeremiah 24:7, Acts 26:18, and 2 Timothy 2:25-26.
- * Pray for opportunities to open up, build relationships, and to listen and share: Colossians 4:2-4 and Colossians 4:5-6.
- * Keep it short, on one accord, affirm and echo. (one person prays about something and others prayer over the same person/situation, then move on to the next prayer)

Ways to Witness lifeGroup Witness Ideas

- * Keep extra copies of your schedule/directions at church so you can pass them out to people as you invite them.
- * Create a group flier! Make it fun and creative. Make copies for everyone to use to hand out to people at work/neighborhood/friendship circle, etc. as they invite them.
- * Plan social event once every few months to invite your "impact list" to.
- * Plan a neighborhood impact night. Wherever the host for that night lives, bless their neighborhood. Ideas: offer to rake leaves, take plates of cookies to the neighbors etc.
- * On nice nights, have lifeGroup outside where you can spark up conversations with those who pass by.
- * Habitat for Humanity: take someone with you from your impact list to serve.
- * Pray for your impact list daily (by name).
- * Do a letter writing campaign. Every person in your group writes a handwritten letter to someone on their impact list...either telling them about Jesus, inviting them to life-Group...whatever the Spirit moves you to write. Pray over the letters and mail them on the spot!
- * Go to the school (s) of the children in your lifeGroup and pray for the schools/teachers/students.
- * Pray in front of the houses of the people on your impact list.
- * Write an invitation to a friend.
- * Go sledding—invite your impact list
- * Take water/soda to a park and strike up conversations with those you meet.
- * Clean a park together.
- * Collect food in your neighborhood for an area food pantry.
- * Have a group "Clean out the closets day!" Everybody bring old clothes to donate to shelter or thrift store.
- * Go Christmas Caroling.
- * Play games with the residents at a nursing home.
- * Find out the needs of your community and go serve!
- * Have your group spend time writing out their faith story. Take turns sharing it in your group...(practicing for when they have the opportunity to share with someone who doesn't know Jesus).
- * Pick scripture that clearly speak the Gospel message. Have a memorization challenge. Put the scripture in your heart so you have it available during conversations with unbelievers.

Additional Resources

Top 10 Ways to Help Children Engage in lifeGroup

1. **Keep it simple.** Repeat, repeat, repeat. Jesus loves you. He made you. He will never leave you. God is good. Be kind and share with your friend.
2. **Let them move!** Encourage dancing, jumping, climbing as you teach a Bible story to them. Even let them act out the story (use dress up clothes, get creative!)
3. **Put scripture to music** to help them memorize. (resource: Hide 'em In your Heart by Steve Green)
4. **Allow the older children** to teach the younger children.
5. **Let them pray**, or have them repeat after you when you pray, using short phrases.
6. **Encourage praying for others.** Have a travelling prayer poster or notebook with pictures of people you are praying for.
7. **Serve together as families** (food pantry gardens, neighborhood food drive, invite a neighbor over for 'smores, take flowers to a nursing home.)
8. **Prayer Partners** with adults and children.
9. **Celebrate Baptismal Birthdays.** Light a candle and have the rest of the group pray for the child.
10. **Go** to the extracurricular activities of the kids and cheer them on. Have playdates outside of lifeGroup.

Additional Resources

Top 10 Ways to Encourage Discussion around God's Word

1. **Read the passage** in several different translations.
2. **Let people process** first for 5 or 10 minutes before sharing.
3. **Have everyone write down 5 questions** they have after reading a passage.
4. **Use a study Bible** and look at the study notes.
5. **Explore the context** of the passage. (look before and after the verses)
6. **Use open ended questions** to help the group discover the meaning and purpose of the passage.
7. **Retell the passage** in your own words.
8. **Illustrate the passage**, or have children act it out.
9. **Make a list** of how this passage can be applied today in your life.
10. **Share your own questions or feelings** about the passage you've read. Example: I was confused when ...

Additional Resources

lifeGroup Word Ideas

- * Look up additional bible verses pertaining to the past evening's discussion. Follow-up by emailing these to the group during the week
- * Break into groups of 3-4 people to discuss questions. (People open up better in smaller, more intimate groups. Groups of 2 don't work well, but 3 is optimal).
- * Divide into 2 groups—men's and women's for the discussion time.
- * Ask questions to specific people, instead of presenting it to the whole group.
- * Manage the conversation so it is not dominated by one person.
- * Redirect people's responses, helping them focus on and apply the word to themselves, rather than "other people" or "society."
- * Lead by example—share your personal experiences, confess your sins first, be transparent, model authenticity.
- * Don't be afraid of silence—give people time to think, process, and then respond. Even if it gets uncomfortable, give it time!
- * Leave room for the Spirit to move. If something comes up that needs to be addressed, be willing to let conversation flow. The questions are just a guide, not mandatory.
- * Listen more than you talk.
- * Rotate leading the discussion.
- * Be prepared. Read over the passages and consider the questions for yourself BEFORE you gather.

Additional Resources

OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CHURCH & COMMUNITY

At *the Church* we embrace giving as a way of life. It starts with the personal need within each of us to return to God a thankful portion of our time, talents, and treasures to serve Him, serve His church, and serve others. See a full list of opportunities on our website: www.livelifetogether.com/volunteer.

Send a picture of your *lifeServe* experience to pics@livelifetogether.com



= Family-friendly service opportunity

GOOD NEIGHBORS PERSONAL ESSENTIALS PANTRY (GNPEP)



Located inside Arbor Covenant Church
2509 McDivitt Road, Fitchburg

What you can do: volunteer at pantry or donate items.

Volunteer during the pantry's open hours on Friday mornings and evenings on the 3rd Thursday of each month, or help unpack boxes on Thursdays. GNPEP also accepts in-kind donations of many household and personal care items. Please check the lists on the pantry website (gnpep.org), and drop off items at *the Church at Christ Memorial* (designated box in the Welcome Area) or at the pantry. Find more info on the website – gnpep.org – or by contacting one of the pantry coordinators: Robin Cherwinka (cherwinka@tds.net, 608-832-6388) or Nancy Baumgardner (nancybaumgardner@gmail.com, 608-320-0977).



MEALS FOR FAMILIES IN TIMES OF NEED

Church families, and Leopold Elementary School neighborhood

What you can do: cook or purchase meals to donate.

Here at *the Church*, we're blessed to be part of a family, a support network helping one another through transition times. Ask someone at church who's just had a new baby, or is experiencing sickness or a death in the family, when you can drop off dinner to their home.

Consider also sharing and building the benefits of a support network with others by partnering with the new Leopold Elementary Community School program, which aims to empower and support families in their community (near our Fitchburg site), especially when they're faced with difficult situations.

To help by providing meals in these situations, contact Sami Clausen-Ruppert: se-clausen@madison.k12.wi.us.

Local Schools

Your neighborhood, your city

What you can do: volunteer at school or donate resources.

Share your time by reading to a class or helping in the school library, or share your resources (e.g. asking school administrators or teachers if they have a wish list of needed items) with a school in your neighborhood. Visit these websites to find schools in your area:

- [Madison Metropolitan School District](http://madison.k12.wi.us) (madison.k12.wi.us)
- [Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District](http://mcpasd.k12.wi.us/) (mcpasd.k12.wi.us/)
- [Monona Grove School District](http://mononagrove.org) (mononagrove.org)
- [Oregon School District](http://oregonsd.org) (oregonsd.org)
- [Verona School District](http://verona.k12.wi.us) (verona.k12.wi.us)



FRIENDS OF THE STATE STREET FAMILY

Top of State Street, behind the Wisconsin State Historical Museum

What you can do: serve food in downtown Madison.

Serve on any Saturday (3-4pm, rain or shine) at the "Food Run," which feeds between 125-200 people each week. E-mail questions to atfssfhomelessoutreach@gmail.com.

WORSHIP MUSIC TEAMS & MEDIA TEAMS

the Church at Christ Memorial, Fitchburg

What you can do: share your musical gifts, or help with sound or media for worship.

Help make worship experiences at *the Church* happen! Here are a few ways to get involved: **(1)** Join the worship music team for one of our services: 8:00am traditional – contact Heidi Chi (hchi@lifelifeogether.com); or 10:45am contemporary – contact Jason Keagy (jason.keagy@gmail.com). **(2)** Be trained to run the sound board for 8:00am service – contact Heidi Chi (hchi@lifelifeogether.com). **(3)** Become a screen creator (weekday) or screen operator (Sunday morning); training provided, time commitment is 1-2 hours about once or twice a month – contact Mayme Keagy (mkeagy@lifelifeogether.com) to learn more.

Other Ways to Serve Your Family, Friends, Neighbors, & Coworkers:

- Serve their favorite meal or bring them their favorite treat along with an encouraging note.
- Do their chores or other "grunt work" when you observe them having a tough day.
- Call them on the phone or send them a letter or card in the mail.
- Give them a big hug and tell them you love them just as they are, and Jesus loves them, too!