



GROUP LEADER ESSENTIALS

Bible Engagement

Engagement in the Bible is so essential for the mission of making disciples of Jesus for kingdom impact that is shows up in both Christ Community Church’s DNA statement and in the Adult Ministries Group Leader Essentials.

CCC DNA

We encounter the Father daily

God the Father speaks to us **through the Bible** and we commune with him through prayer.

Leader Essentials

We help people LEARN from Jesus with **formation through Study**, the Spirit, Suffering, and Sharing in Community.

We help people LIVE like Jesus through **formation in the Word**

Scripture is likened to food in the spiritual realm, without it disciples of Jesus cannot grow.

Deut. 8:3

Matt. 4:4

1 Tim. 4:6

Job 23:12

Acts 20:32

2 Tim. 3:16-17

Place the number of people in your group that fit under each descriptor

Never Engages in the Bible	Engages 10-12 times a year (little spiritual influence in their life)	Engages 1-2 times a week (some spiritual insight in their life)	Engages 5-7 times a week (influencing their relationship with God and others)	Engages Daily (transforming their relationships and choices)

Discuss

How can you discover where your group members are with their engagement in God’s Word?

Increasing the Frequency of Bible Engagement

1. Establish a common baseline for everyone in your group by studying what the Bible says it is.

Characteristics of the Bible

Joshua 23:6-8; 14_____

Ps. 119:105-112_____

2 Tim. 3:14-16_____

Ps. 12:6_____

Ps. 119:153-160_____

Heb. 4:12_____

Ps. 18:30_____

Is. 40:6-8_____

1 Peter 1:23-25_____

Ps. 19:7-10_____

Is. 55:8-11_____

2 Peter 1:16-21_____

2. Share the benefits of engaging in the Bible, casting vision for how the Bible shapes our lives.

Benefits of reading the Bible

Josh. 1:7-9_____

Ps.37:30-33_____

2 Tim. 3:14-17 _____

Ps. 19:8 _____

Ps. 119:9-16_____

Prov. 6:20-22_____

Ps. 119:17-24_____

Matt. 4:1-4_____

Ps. 119:49-56_____

John 15:1-11_____

Discuss

- Who in your group benefits the most from their Bible engagement? Who's needing more impact from their Bible engagement?
- How could you share the *Characteristics of the Bible* and *Benefits of Reading the Bible* with your group?

3. Model and share how to engage with the Bible.

Four Ways to Engage with the Bible

Study it: Acts 17:11, 2 Tim. 2:15 ([Bible Project Videos](#) , [You Version App](#) , Study Bible, Bible Dictionary)

Memorize it: Ps. 37:31, Ps. 119:9-11 - [What is your heart?](#)

Share it with others: Rom. 1:15, 1 Thess. 2:8 (Group Me, Facebook Group, You Version group)

Meditate on it: Josh. 1:8, Ps. 1:2-3 *Lectio Divina*

An Example of Meditation: *LECTIO DIVINA*

“*Lectio Divina*”, Latin for “sacred reading,” is an ancient practice of quiet prayer and reflection, reading scripture and listening to the voice of God, dating back to about 300AD. *Lectio* can be done alone or in a group. The leader will tell you when to move to the next stage.

REMEMBER:

- Posture is important. Sit straight up, feet on the floor, hands in your lap or to your sides. This is important for attentive listening. While this process can be restful, it is a time to be attentive to God’s voice.
- This time is your gift to God. It’s not about whether you get something out of it or not. Don’t be discouraged if you don’t “get it.”
- Your mind will wander. Recognize that this happens, even to those who practice *Lectio* often. When you catch yourself, refocus and continue. They don’t call them “spiritual practices” for nothing!

Give it a try with these four steps!

Step 1: *LECTIO* – read (5 minutes)

Scripture passage for today: John 15:1-17

- READ through a short passage of scripture three times
- LISTEN for a specific word or phrase that catches your attention

Word or phrase: _____

Step 2: *MEDITATIO* – think (5 minutes)

- “Meditate” literally means “to gnaw”, as a dog gnaws on a bone.
- Actively think about your word or phrase
- Ask: Why is it important? How does it make me feel?
- You can write notes below.

Step 3: *ORATIO* – pray (5 minutes)

- Ask, “God, why did you give me this word? Why do I feel this way about this phrase?”
- Listen for a response. Follow your active thoughts (not your distraction thoughts)
- Be patient.

Step 4: *CONTEMPLATIO* – Live (5 minutes)

- Rest in the love and presence of God, feel his closeness
- Thank God for this word.

Discuss

- How could you lead your group members in meditating on the Bible using *Lectio Divina*?
- What would your group look after this year if all its members engaged more meaningfully with the Bible?