

UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE DISCUSSION GUIDE

There aren't many books as complex, thought-provoking, life-giving, and practical as the Bible, but studying the Bible can be daunting. In this session, we'll work toward a better understanding of the layout, themes, people, places, and stories of the Bible. Knowledge won't be enough; we'll also do our best to apply it to our lives.

AGENDA OVERVIEW

- Connect | 30 Minutes
- Learn and Apply | 110 Minutes
 - Verse and Prayer | 20 Minutes
 - Reflection Exercises | 90 Minutes
- Pray | 30 Minutes
- Looking Ahead | 10 Minutes

CONNECT

Spend the first 30 minutes connecting, and use these [Icebreaker Questions](#) if needed.

LEARN AND APPLY

VERSE REVIEW

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”

(Matthew 7:24)

PRAYER PRACTICE

Discuss prayer practice, and share what you experienced.

REFLECTION EXERCISES

1. Discuss which chapters were most impactful from *Renovation of the Heart in Daily Practice*.
2. Share about your time in silence and your reflections from Chapter 61.
3. Review “The Story of the Bible” (pages 150–152) from *30 Days to Understanding the Bible*.
4. Discuss your most significant insight(s) from this session and how you will apply it your life.

PRAY

Ephesians 1:17–23 and 3:14–21 are two powerful prayers written by the apostle Paul about faith and hope in Jesus. Below is a prayer from the [Promise Bible Study](#) that combines parts of Ephesians 1 and 3. Conclude your time by everyone quietly reading and praying this prayer. Pause for a minute of silence, and then have one person read it aloud.

“Lord Jesus Christ, I pray to you, the Father of Glory, that you may grant me a spirit of wisdom and revelation, a deep and intimate knowledge of you, that the eyes of my heart be enlightened, that I can know and understand the hope to which you have called me, and the richness of your glorious inheritance in the saints... that I can know and understand the immeasurable and unlimited greatness of your power—in and for me—as I believe, demonstrated in the working of your mighty strength through Christ when you raised him from the dead and seated him in the heavenly places, far above all rule, authority, power, and dominion, and every name—in this age, and the one to come.

Lord, you placed all things under your feet and have appointed your Son, Christ Jesus, to be head over all things, and to the church, which is his body: the fullness of him, the all in all.

For this reason, I bow my knees before you, heavenly Father, my Lord Jesus Christ, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to your riches in glory I may be strengthened with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ dwells in my heart through faith, that I, together with my brothers and sisters in Christ—rooted and grounded in your love—may be able to comprehend the breadth, length, height, and depth of Christ’s love: receiving your fullness. Now to you, who is able to do exceedingly, abundantly more than I ask or think—through the power that works within me. To you be glory in the church, and in Christ Jesus, through all generations, forever and ever, AMEN.”

LOOKING AHEAD

Review the Assignment Guide for the next session.