

Vision Casting- Scripture & Prayer

The aim of this Life Group is to help students think biblically about the practices of communal study of Scripture and prayer. We want to challenge preconceptions on these practices, and help cultivate a holy excitement around implementing them as a class on Sunday mornings. We want students to understand why these practices which are often considered “quiet time” practices ought to have a place in community spaces. We also want to leverage these conversations to build buy in our students as we continue to focus our Life Group time around scripture study and prayer.

Introducing the Topic

For this session in particular, we will spend a large chunk of time on these introductory questions. This is a time for students to help each other put language to their experiences of and thoughts about Bible study and prayer.

- What has been your experience of Bible Study? Have you done it before? What did you think of it?
- Why do you think Christians emphasize the practice of Bible Study so much?
- Do you prefer reading the Bible on your own or with people? Why is that your preference?
- Why do you think it might be helpful for us to study scripture in community?
- What has been your experience with prayer? Do you have any stories about prayer?
- What does prayer look like in your day to day personal life? Do you enjoy it? Is it ever hard for you?
- What kind of things do you pray for?
- Is there any way you'd want to grow or change in your prayer life?

Scripture Study

As you transition to the Scripture Study portion of this session, remind students that Scripture is where we turn for truth. We want to continually reiterate that we study Scripture not just for the “Christian take” on a matter, but God’s revealed word, given to us out of love for our good.

- Let’s look at a couple verses where the Bible talks about the practice of studying scripture together!
- Read Acts 17:10-12 together.
- What stuck out to you? What did you notice?

- What do you think it means that the Bereans were called “more noble”?
- What practice were the Bereans in? Why do you think that’s so notable here?
- How did their practices change their response to Paul and Silas?
- Why is their example important?
- Read II Timothy 3:14-17 together.
- What stuck out to you? What did you notice?
- What commands does Paul make in this verse?
- What does Paul say about Scripture?
- What is the effect of “being acquainted” with Scripture according to Paul?
- Read James 5:13-18 together.
- What stood out to you?
- What reasons does James give to pray?
- What does James say prayer accomplishes?
- Notice that James instructs readers to pray over each other more than once, why do you think that is?
- Why do you think James gives the example of Elijah? What are we supposed to take from that?

Practical Application

We want students to be able to contextualize what Scripture teaches to their daily life. This portion of the conversation is centered around the practical application of the text, and aimed at helping students actually integrate these spiritual disciplines into their walk with the Lord and into their practice of community.

- How do you want the way you study Scripture to look different?
- How do you want the way you pray to look different? What about the way we pray together?
- What can we do as a class to study Scripture more deeply together? How can we pray together better?