



Reading Schedule for Bible Study

Date	Leaders Group	Student Bible Study	Notes
Week of Sept 14	Matt 5-7		
Week of Sept 21	Matt 4:17-4:25	Matt 5-7	
Week of Sept 28	Matt 5:1-16	Matt 4:17-4:25	
Week of Oct 5	FALL BREAK	FALL BREAK	Meet for fun or take the week off!
Week of Oct 12	Matt 5:17-32	Matt 5:1-16	
Week of Oct 19	Matt 5:33-48	Matt 5:17-32	
Week of Oct 26	Matt 6:1-18	Matt 5:33-48	
Week of Nov 2	Matt 6:19-34	Matt 6:1-18	
Week of Nov 9	Matt 7:1-12	Matt 6:19-34	
Week of Nov 16	Matt 7:13-29	Matt 7:1-12	
Week of Nov 23	Thanksgiving Break	Thanksgiving Break	Meet for a time of prayer (to give thanks!) or take a break!
Week of Nov 30	Matt 5-7	Matt 7:13-29	
Week of Dec 7		Matt 5-7	
Week of Dec 14			Exam Week

Bible Study Format (for leaders)

Prepare Your Hearts (8:00pm – 5 min)

1. Open the study with prayer, asking for God to send his Spirit to clarify the passage, to soften your heart, to open your ears to the Spirit speaking through the other group members, and to deepen your relationships with each other.
2. *If you're not sure what or how to pray, here's a prayer you may use: "Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace. Free us in these moments from every distraction, that we may focus to listen, that we may hear, that we may change, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen."*

Share Your Lives (8:05pm – 15 min)

1. Ask each person to share one thing she's thankful for about the past week, and one thing she's concerned about in the coming week.
2. Have everyone answer the question, "How did you see last week's passage at work in your life?"
3. *Being vulnerable with each other and deepening your relationships is really important. It allows to you to be more comfortable sharing your reflections on Scripture. However, it is easy to let this part of the group swell and take more time than you spend reading Scripture. So I encourage you to make time for more casual fellowship before or after the official "hour."*

Listen to the Word (8:20pm – 10 min)

1. Have one person read the passage aloud, slowly and clearly, while the group listens without reading along. It can be helpful to read it a second time, so feel free to do that.
2. Silently let it sink in for 30 seconds or so.
3. In pairs, share something from the passage that captures your imagination or strikes you as interesting. *While one partner is talking, the other should simply listen. Don't interrupt or add your own thoughts. This is your chance to practice generous listening. After a minute or two, switch and let the other person share. Again, this is your partner's time to share!*
4. Gather back as a whole group and ask, "What did we hear?" Take five minutes for group members to share what they heard from their *partner*. This is a way to learn to listen carefully and to hear the Holy Spirit speaking through the body of Christ.

Reflect on the Word (8:30pm – 20 min)

1. What questions do you have? Which words or phrases intrigue you or puzzle you? What is it about them that catches your attention?
2. How does it connect to what Matthew says before this passage or after? How does it connect to other places in Scripture (especially note any OT reference!)?
3. What does this passage say about who God is?
4. How does this passage describe the Church?
5. How do you hear this passage speak in our life now? How is it calling you to live? How is it calling us to live as a community? Be specific. Say, "I/we will do this particular thing this week."
6. Take a look at "Lauren's Reflections" for this week. Feel free to use those thoughts or questions here.

Pray the Word (8:50pm – 10 min)

1. In pairs or as a whole group, pray in response to the Scripture passage.
2. Pray for the Holy Spirit to develop your character and your faith in the ways that you identified in the previous conversation. Pray for the group. Pray for Christians around the world, Holland, and the Hope community.

Fall 2015 Women's Bible Study
Questions to Prepare as We Study the Sermon on the Mount

1. Write the passage in your own words.
2. What are two or three questions you have about the passage? (Think about: are there words or phrases intrigue you or puzzle you? What it is about them that catches your attention?)
3. What themes do you see here? How does it connect to what Matthew says before this passage or after? How does it connect to other places in Scripture (especially note any OT reference!)?
4. What does this passage say about who God is?
5. How does this passage describe the Church?
6. How do you hear this passage speak in our life now? How is it calling you to live? How is it calling us to live as a community? Be specific. Say, "I/we will do this particular thing this week."