

# **GROUP GUIDE**

*Week of April 12*

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## **SPIRITUAL RHYTHMS – SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: 20 minutes**

Last month, we practiced the rhythm of daily devotion. This month, we want to build on that practice by moving Scripture from "head knowledge" to "heart knowledge." As we read the Word, it shapes our understanding of who God is and who we are in relation to Him. **Scripture memorization ingrains this truth, moving it from mere information to our core identity.**

This month we will memorize scriptures focused on discipleship. We began with the disciple's mission: **The Great Commission.**

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." – **Matthew 28:19-20**

Take some time to discuss how it went memorizing these verses last week. We have included some questions below to help you get the conversation started.

- What has your past experience been with memorizing Scripture? Was it something you enjoyed, or did it feel like a chore?
- When you think about memorizing a longer passage like the Great Commission, what feels most challenging? Is it the time, the focus, or the fear of forgetting it?
- Why do you think it is specifically important for a disciple to have the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) stored in their heart rather than just being able to find it in a Bible?
- What are some creative ways we can help each other memorize this this week? (Examples: Texting the group a "first-letter" hint, putting a sticky note on the car dashboard, or setting the verse as your phone lock screen.)

Continue to practice memorizing Matthew 28:19-20 this week. Bonus challenge: find your groups pastor at church this weekend and share with them your memorized verse!

## **SCRIPTURE: – LUKE 22– JOHN 2 (from NT reading plan Apr 6-10 ): 40 Minutes**

Walk through each chapter one at a time from the previous week's reading, discussing the observations and what you learned from the seek out portion of your POST study. If you need questions to get the conversation started, we've included a few ideas below.



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- Is there anything in this week's reading that stretches or challenges you? What might obedience look like?
- What do you notice that is different between the books of Luke and John?
- What stands out to you most in these chapters, and why do you think it grabbed your attention?
- What do we learn about God's character in these chapters?
- How does Jesus interact with people in these passages, and what does that show us about how he calls us to live?

### **TAKE ACTION: 20 Minutes**

What is God saying to me as I read his word? What do I need to do to obey him? Spend time praying individually, asking God those questions.

Share what you believe he is telling you through an "I will" statement. (ex: I will start tithing 1% this month with the goal of increasing the percentage next month)

# POST STUDY METHOD

## STEP 1: PRAY AND PREPARE

- **PRAY** - Invite the Holy Spirit into your time, asking Him to teach you and speak to your heart. Turn over anything that may be distracting you.
- **PREPARE** - Watch the Bible Project video overview for the book you're reading and write down any observations or questions you have.

## STEP 2: OBSERVE

Read your chapter of Scripture multiple times for comprehension. Then, follow the suggestions listed below.

- **OUTLINE** - For this step, read the entire chapter and break it into sections that make the most sense to you. Outlining will cause you to naturally make observations you may have missed on a first reading.
- **ISPY** - Go through the chapter and underline or circle repeated words and phrases. Repetition is usually an indicator of something important. Look for answers to who, what, where, when, and why. Look for connection words like but, if, therefore, etc. They can help you see important comparisons, contrasts, and connections. Look for cultural and historical ideas that may be rooted in the culture at the time of the writing.
- **WRITE DOWN QUESTIONS** that come up as you study.
- **MAKE BULLETED LISTS, PARAPHRASE OR SUMMARIZE** what you observe by creating your own title for the passage.

## STEP 3: SEEK OUT

Now read other translations, commentaries, and/or study Bible notes to check your work, gain further insight and answer any remaining questions from Step 2.

## STEP 4: TAKE ACTION

1. What does this passage teach me about God and following Him?
2. What is God saying to me as I read His Word and listen to His voice?
3. What do I need to do to obey Him? (Make a tangible and practical commitment.) "I will..."

