

GROUP GUIDE

Week of April 26

SPRITUAL 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 continue with an instruction from Jesus:

John 13:34–35 NLT So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.

Take some time to discuss how it went memorizing John 15:4 and then strategize how you can memorize John 13:34–35 this week. We have included some questions below to help you get the conversation started.

- Have everyone try to recite John 15:4 from memory. Note: If someone isn't there yet, stay encouraging! The goal is consistent practice, not perfection.
- What worked well for you when memorizing John 15:4? What adjustments do you need to make to successfully memorize John 13:34–35 this week.
- How can you continue to memorize scripture after this month? What apps, resources, or materials can you find to help you continue?
- What are some other verses that you think would be helpful for your group to memorize?

SCRIPTURE: – JOHN 8–12 (from NT reading plan Apr 20–24): 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.

- Is there anything in this week's reading that stretches or challenges you? What might obedience look like?
- 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?



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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 take the next step toward baptism by initiating a baptism request under the baptism icon on the home page of the Traders Point app)

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..."

