



The Direct Study of Scripture for Cornerstone Groups

Follow the Lectionary

Examine as a group the passage that was preached at St. Mark's on the previous weekend. Or preview the weekend by studying the passage in advance of the sermon. [Click here](#) to find the lectionary passages for group planning.

Sermon Reflection

Did your group thrive on its reflection of the weekend teaching during the Stations study? If so, continue that pattern by discussing the weekend message and the accompanying scripture.

- *What stood out to you from the sermon this past weekend?*
- *What questions did the sermon prompt in you?*

Select Your Own Scripture

If your group has a desire to dive into a specific book of the Bible (or a portion of a book, e.g. the Sermon on the Mount) then you can create your own study and discussion questions.

Standard Questions

For any study of scripture (lectionary or selected) the following format can be used to encourage your group to self-discover the truths and life-changing content from any Bible passage.

- **Icebreaker:** Pick a fun question that everyone can answer to help group members get to know each other. For added connection, link the icebreaker in some way to the scripture or topic for the group meeting.
- **Read the Passage Aloud:** Afterwards, it can be helpful to give your group a bit of time to quietly reread the scripture. Have them note key words and phrases while also writing down questions sparked by the text.
- **Exploration Questions**
 - *What in this scripture passage is unexpected, surprising or confusing? Why?*
 - *What else jumps out at you from this passage?*
- **Discovery Questions**
 - *What do we know about the context of this passage that might be helpful?*
 - *What can we learn about God from this passage?*
 - *What can we learn about ourselves from this passage?*
 - *What do you think is the main point of this passage?*
 - *What other timeless truths do you see here?*
- **Application Questions**
 - *Is there anything in this passage that you feel encouraged to apply to your own life?*
 - *How can the group encourage you to follow through on any needed life change?*

Bonus Resource

[Click here](#) for *LessonMaker* by NavPress which can help you prepare discussion questions for any New Testament passage. Out of print, but still recommended.