

C-Group Study Guide

Missions Emphasis



Cultivating our Community for Christ

Calendar

Sep. 27	What is the Gospel / Evangelism?
Oct. 4	Combatting Excuses to the Gospel
Oct. 11	Combatting Objections to the Bible
Oct. 18	Dealing with Different People Pt. 1
Oct. 25	Dealing with Different People Pt. 2

2019 Connection Groups

<u>Leader(s)</u>	<u>Demographic</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Day/Time</u>
Newkirk	Open Group	McHenry Home	SUN. – 4:00 P.M.
Jennings	Open Group	CBC	SUN. – 5:30 P.M.
Simpkins	Open Group	CBC	SUN. – 5:30 P.M.
Crum	Ladies	Crum Home	MON. – 6:30 P.M.
Pause	Open Group	Pause Home	TUES – 6:30 P.M.
Lewis	Teenagers	Lewis Home	WED. – 6:00 P.M.
Gillispie	Ladies	CBC	WED. – 10:00 A.M.
Pahl	Open Group	Pahl Home	WED. – 6:00 P.M.
McHale	Open Group	McHale Home	WED. – 6:00 P.M.
Reynolds	Open Group	Reynolds Home	WED. – 7:00 P.M.

Helpful Tips for Studying Scripture

Below are some helpful questions to ask and answer when reading, understanding, and applying scripture to our lives. You do not need to answer all these questions as part of each week, but as you read through the passages you are encouraged to keep these questions nearby to enhance your experience reading God's word.

Understanding the Bible

1. **What do we learn about God?**
 - a. Look for God's character (who he is, what he is like).
 - b. Look for God's conduct (what he is doing).
 - c. Look for God's concerns (what things, events, and people he is concerned about).
2. **What do we learn about people?**
 - a. Look for aspects of what it means to be created in God's image.
 - b. Look for fallen condition
 - c. Look for how God's people should live.
3. **What do we learn about relating to God?**
 - a. Look for things to praise and thank God for.
 - b. Look for sin to confess and repent.
 - c. Look for promises and truths to believe.
4. **What do we learn about relating to others?**
 - a. Look for how we should interact with and treat others.
 - b. Look for ways to pursue reconciliation with others.
 - c. Look for specific ways to love, serve, and care for others.

Applying the Bible

1. **What does God want me to understand?**
2. **What does God want me to believe?**
3. **What does God want me to desire?**
4. **What does God want me to do?**

Content taken from Dr. Matthew Harmon's book, *Asking the Right Questions*, Crossway, 2017. Used with permission.

Missions Emphasis

Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

This small section is well quoted when the primary job of the Christian is mentioned. Leading up to this point, Jesus had appeared multiple times to different people and this was likely the last appearance he would make before his ascension. What follows in verses 19 and 20 is Jesus' final word of command to his followers.

GO. MAKE DISCIPLES. BAPTIZING. TEACHING.

Jesus commissioned his followers to carry out this very task. No one who would claim to follow Jesus is exempt from or lacking in the ability to perform what he has commanded. Every follower of Christ therefore should be, as they are going, making more followers of Jesus by baptizing them into the family of God and teaching them all the teachings and commands of Jesus so they too might better know him as their personal Lord and savior.

Many know this passage and what it means that Christ followers should be doing, but often knowing the how to do it becomes the struggle. The following study guide is meant to equip with practical information and tools to starting and maintaining conversations about the gospel and the many questions that come along with it.

What is the Gospel / Evangelism?

Discuss:

1. Write down what you consider are the key points of the gospel message. What does 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 say the gospel is?

2. Use Scripture to further detail and explain aspects of the gospel.
 - a. Who is Christ? (Is. 7:14, 9:6; John 1:1, 14; Titus 2:13; Heb. 1:8)

 - b. Sin (Rom. 3:10; 23)

 - c. Death (Gen. 2:15-17; Eph. 2:1; 2 Thess. 1:9; Rev. 20:14-15)

 - d. Sacrifice (Is. 53:6; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 2:24; 3:18)

e. Resurrection (Psalm 16:10; Rom. 1:1-4)

3. Two commonly used words in Christianity are “evangelism” and “witnessing”. Evangelism is from the Greek word “euangelion” which means “gospeling”. Witnessing involves making visible what is otherwise invisible.

a. Is there a difference between “witnessing” to someone and “evangelizing” to someone? How so?

b. Can you do one without the other? Why or why not?

Apply:

Do you find it easier to be a witness (example) of Christ, or to evangelize (tell others) about Christ? Why do you think this is?

An often misquoted saying from St. Francis of Assisi is “*Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if necessary*”. What are some problems with this way of thinking? What does scripture have to say about this? (Romans 10:14)

Combatting Excuses to the Gospel

Discuss:

As always, mankind has always found ways to come up with excuses to why they do not need God. Use scripture to develop a defense to the following common excuses.

1. I'm not ready now, I'll have time later. (2 Cor. 6:2; Heb. 3:15; Luke 12:20)

2. I'm too far lost / I've done too many bad things. (Luke 5:32; 1 Tim. 1:15; Heb. 7:25; John 5:40, 6:37)

3. I'm good enough. (Rom. 3:12; Matt. 19:17; 1 Sam. 16:7)

4. I go to church / My parents are Christian. (John 1:12, 17:3; Matt. 1:21)

5. God won't send me to Hell because He is "love". (John 3:16-18, 14:6; Matthew 7:13-14, 25:41-46)

6. I am doing the best that I can. (Rom. 3:23; 1 Pet. 3:18)

7. I'll have another chance after death. (Heb. 9:27; Luke 16:19-31)

Apply:

Who have you shared the gospel with who turned it down recently?

How might you show them the urgency with your persistence?

Combatting Objections to the Bible

Discuss:

Satan has been twisting the truth in the ears of mankind since the garden. Look at and discuss the following objections to Christianity and the Bible, then, using scripture, write a response to the objection. (*Feel free to use other scripture that is not listed*)

1. Being a Christian doesn't change anything because Christians are all hypocrites.
 - a. As a Christian, who are we called to follow? (1 Pet. 2:21-23; 1 John 3:5; John 8:46)

2. What about people who have never heard of Jesus? Do they just suffer unfairly? (Matt. 7:7-8; Rom. 10:15)

3. The Bible is full of errors.¹ (Isaiah 55:10-11; John 17:17; Titus 1:2; Heb. 4:12; 2 Cor. 6:7; Col. 1:5; 2 Tim. 2:15; James 1:18)

¹ Most "errors" often mentioned are not errors but difficulties that can be answered with an in-depth study and closer examination of the text.

4. If God is good, why is there so much evil and suffering in the world?
 - a. Who created evil? (Gen 1 & 3; Rom. 5:12; Ecc. 7:29)
 - b. What is the purpose of pain? (Rom. 5:4; 2 Cor. 4:17)
 - c. God did provide a solution, what was it? (Col. 2:14, Heb. 2:14, Eph. 4:7-12)

Apply:

Who do you know that has a hard time accepting Jesus as the way to salvation because of these objections? How can you better show them the goodness of God amid their questions?

Dealing with Different People Pt. 1

Discuss:

There are many religions and belief systems in the world, of which some of them act and claim to be partners with Christianity. Some of the most common of these include Catholicism, Mormonism, and Jehovah's Witnesses. Upon closer look however, some of the teachings lie in direct opposition with what scripture teaches. As you read about each of these, use scripture to explain why this alternate thinking is faulty and consider how you might best approach discussing this, in love, with a member of the opposing faith.

Jehovah's Witnesses

1. Jesus Christ is God's firstborn son, is inferior to God, and was created by God. The Holy Spirit is not a person; it is God's active force.
 - a. (Col. 1:15-17, 2:9; John 8:58 & Ex. 3:14; John 1:1, 10:30, 14:15-17; 2 Cor. 3:17; Rev. 1:17-18; Acts 5:3-5)

2. When a person dies, their existence completely stops and they cease to exist. There is no Hell where the wicked are punished.
 - a. 2 Cor. 5:8, 2 Cor 12:2; Matt. 25:46; Rev. 14:11, 20:15, 21:8; Matt. 5:22, 10:28, 13:50, 25:41, 46; 2 Thess. 1:9; Mark 9:43-48)

Mormons

1. The book of Mormon is more correct than the Bible, (History of the Church, 4:461)
 - a. (John 16:13, 17:17; Rev. 21:5, 22:18; Prov. 30:5-6)

2. The true gospel was lost from the earth. Mormonism is its restoration, (Articles of Faith, by James Talmage, p. 182-185.)

- a. (Matt. 16:18, 1 Cor. 15:1-4; 2 Cor. 4:3-4)
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- 3. Good works are necessary for salvation (Articles of Faith, by James Talmage, p. 92).
 - a. (Eph. 2:8-10; Rom. 11:6, Gal. 2:16)

Catholics

- 1. Penance is the sacrament of reconciliation that "reestablishes a right relationship between God and a wayward Catholic. Roman Catholicism teaches that penance "is necessary for salvation for those who have fallen after Baptism.
 - a. (Rom. 3:24, 28, 4:5, 21, 5:1-5, 9; 11:6; Eph. 2:8; Heb. 2:17, 7:26-28, 9:14; 1 John 1:7; Gal. 2:21;)

- 2. The Roman Catholic Church claims to be the only true church on earth and that it alone retains the authority to infallibly interpret the Word of God. In fact, it says that no one is allowed to interpret Scripture contrary to what the Roman Catholic Church says.
 - a. (2 Pet. 1:20-21, 3:16; 2 Tim. 2:15, 3:16-17; 1 Cor. 2:13; John 14:26)

Apply:

How do we have these types of conversations with individuals like those in these groups in a way that wins the soul rather than just the argument?

Dealing with Different People Pt. 2

Discuss:

On the opposite side, Christians who evangelize will inevitably run into people who do not have an interest in spiritual matters, are actively opposed to them, or are oblivious to the deeper meanings. What kind of individuals do we find in scripture, and how does the Bible teach us to handle these situations?

1. Jesus was mocked by his enemies (Luke 22:63-65, Luke 23:11; Luke 23:35-37). How did Jesus respond in these situations? How is this a picture of how we are told to respond?
2. What is the reasoning behind the inability to understand the truth behind the teachings of Jesus as explained in Matt. 13:10-15?
3. Read Acts 19:1-7. What is the condition of the people that Paul encountered? Even though they had followed the teachings of John the Baptist who was leading the way to Christ, what was it that was still missing?
4. Read Acts 8:26-39. What was the problem that the Ethiopian eunuch was having? How did Phillip respond?

5. Read the following verses. What is the individual described as doing and what might really be the intention of their heart?
 - a. Matthew 6:1-8
 - b. Matthew 6:16
 - c. Matthew 15:7-8
 - d. Matthew 22:15-18
 - e. Matthew 23:25-28

6. What does scripture tell us should be the way to respond to hypocrites? (Matt. 7:1-5, Rom. 15:14 2 Thess. 3:14-15, Ps. 141:5, Matt. 18:15, James 5:19-20, Gal. 6:1; Rom. 12:9, 2 Cor. 6:4-6, 1 Pet. 1:22)

Apply:

Who do you know that is unsaved? Romans 10:14 says; “How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?” How can you pray for them (Romans 10:1) and what plan will you make to give you the opportunity to share the truth that is in you with them? (1 Peter 3:15)

C COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Our purpose of meeting in small groups goes beyond just digging deeper into God's word and fellowship with one another. We have a desire not just to serve ourselves and our own lives, but also to be active in serving outwardly in the community that God has placed us in as a way to share life and love with all those around us. These service projects are to be completed once a quarter by each individual small group. Groups are encouraged to seek out their own need and fill it, but following is a list of places that could be used if you need ideas.

C-Group Community Service Opportunities

Calvary Baptist Church

July: Zornes Amazing Grace Fair Booth

November: Thanksgiving Baskets

Food pantry Friday mornings (contact Marie Brunell)

Children's Bureau

2508 Western Ave E (765) 827-2045

Call the office or check out, <https://www.childrensbureau.org/opportunities/volunteers/> for a list of different ways you could volunteer as a group

Fayette County Foundation

521 N Central Ave (765) 827-9966

Habitat for Humanity

825 N Central Ave (765) 827-5519

The Haven

901 Meyer Ave (765) 967-2584

Friday Night Fuel: Dinners, Transportation, Leaders
Conexus Gaming Ministry

Heritage House:

281 S Co Rd 200 E (765) 825-2148

Nursing Home Visitation

Hope Pregnancy Center

531 N Central Ave #6 (765) 825-1244

Check out <https://www.facebook.com/hope.pregnancy.1> for updates and details on how you can help

House of Ruth:

322 Summit Ave (765) 825-3333

October: House of Ruth's Royal Ball

Majestic Care:

1029 E 5th St. (765) 825-0543

Nursing Home Visitation

Salvation Army:

431 Western Ave W (765) 825-2011

The Care Project

July: Check out <https://www.facebook.com/TheCareProject-Connersville/> for details.

Other Miscellaneous ideas and service opportunities

- Shoveling snow
- Filling community food boxes
- Raking leaves
- Cleaning up litter
- Mowing lawns

PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES!

Calvary supports over 80 missionaries/ministries! Each one needs our prayers! Please use the following chart to pray for just one or two missionaries each week during your group and personal prayer times. On the left of the chart, you will see the lesson/week number. Slide over to the appropriate C-Group leader as shown at the top of the chart to find your missionaries for the week. As each group intercedes for just one or two missionaries each week, we will cover all of our missionaries with prayer during each sermon series.

David Carrell-Brazil	Eric Miller-Advance America	Andrea Clark-Nicaragua	Mark Sterken-Cuba	John Gorman-Military	Reuel Tica-Philippines	George Lewis-Canada	Bob Williams-Choctaw-OK	Tom Wallace-Ireland	Stephen Byrd-Ecuador
Joe Flory-Russia	Amazing Grace-Zornes-USA	David Green-Taiwan	David Green-Taiwan	Brian Brown-Mexico	Joe Mohler-Belgium	Scott Edwards-Portugal	Brenda Hayes-Philippines	Phil Gagnon-Gagnon Global Ministries	Phil Long-Madagascar
Alan Harris-Evangelist	Bible Bapt Seminary-Philippines	Jerry Abbott-Manna Europe	Jerry Abbott-Manna Europe	Naim Khoury-Israel	Paulo Taveras-Brazil	Luke Crockett-France	Gene Burge-Mission Director-FL	Brian Geesaman-PA and Haiti	Keith Reedy-Bibles for the Blind, IN
Jeff Garrison-Hispanic-OH	Art Williams-BOAM-Worldwide	Jordan Steiner-Ecuador	Jordan Steiner-Ecuador	James Turpin-Norway	Richard Hester-Australia	David Ralstrom-Bahamas	Corey O'Grady-Netherlands	Les Tilka-Philippines	Kim Johnson-Campus Crusade
Justin Hayes-Spain				Walter Troup-Africa	Jeff Bush-Mission Director GA	Sam Quinn-India	Ernie Brown-Ecuador	Norman Higgins-Mexico	David Ross-Indonesia
Rene Freret-BEAMS				Lanny Wood-Brazil	Jonathan Wheeler-North Africa	David McDonald-Spain	Hope Center-Connersville	Ron Valero-Dominican	Daniel Jones-Mexico
Paul Hostetter-Madagascar				Harold Priday-Honduras	Larry McKinney-Oklahoma	Accent Radio	Leslie Priday-Honduras	Mark Haynes-Navajos-AZ	Thomas Tucker-Thailand
Matt Smith-Morocco				Michael Lea-Ecuador	John Arherin-Military	Tommy Ashcraft-Mexico	Dave Norman-WA	Tyler Nikkel-Czech Republic	Walter Stevens-Roma

Prayer points for missionaries: ▪ Evangelism and Discipleship ▪ Safety and Health ▪ Family Relationships and Education Concerns ▪ Financial Provision ▪ Personal Purity and Integrity ▪ Passion and Compassion ▪ Wisdom and Discernment

Prayer Requests & Praises



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