

One to One Bible Reading – Session 2

Session 1 – What and Why?

Session 2 – Who and How part 1

Session 3 – How part 2

Session 4 – Q & A

What is One-to-One bible reading?

The prayerful reading of the bible, alongside someone else, for the loving purpose that they might know Jesus better as Lord and Saviour just as I grow in my relationship with Jesus.

Who is One-to-One Bible Reading for?

Grandmothers (Lois), Mothers (Eunice), Apostles, Deacons (Philip), Couples (Priscilla, Aquilla), Everyone (Col 3:16).

Reflection

Apart from the sermon on a Sunday try to think about all the people who have ever read the bible with you.

Here is what was happening when the bible was being read with you:

The S takes the W and applies it to the P

Acts 1:8

⁷ He [Jesus] said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Ephesians 6:17-20

¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

So what is the first thing we should do before anything else?

Please give us wisdom to know who to read with

Acts 16:6-10

⁶ Paul and his companions travelled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia.⁷ When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. ⁸ So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas.⁹ During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and

help us.”¹⁰ After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.”

Please give us wisdom to understand and apply God’s word

James 1:5

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Please open blind eyes to the riches of knowing Jesus

¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,

Please help me and the person I’m reading with to grasp the love of Christ

Ephesians 3:14-19

¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Jesus prays before his disciples recognise something important about him

Luke 9:18-20

¹⁸ While he was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, “Who do the crowds say that I am?”

¹⁹ They answered, “John the Baptist; others, Elijah; still others, that one of the ancient prophets has come back.”

²⁰ “But you,” he asked them, “who do you say that I am?” Peter answered, “God’s Messiah.”

Matthew 16:16-17

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷ Jesus responded, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father in heaven.”

Luke 9:28-32

²⁸ About eight days after this conversation, he took along Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰ Suddenly, two men were talking with him—Moses and Elijah. ³¹ They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish in Jerusalem.

³² Peter and those with him were in a deep sleep, and when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men who were standing with him.

Who could I read the Bible with? List a number of names in each category

	Not yet a Christian
	Christian

Think about your spheres of life and who you come into contact with at:

Work, in your neighbourhood, in your family, at church, in your hobbies/sport, school/uni

Now let's pray by ourselves for wisdom to choose two names from the lists above

How – Part 1

Before we ask someone to read the bible with us

Nehemiah 1-2:6

The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah:

In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, ² Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem.

³ They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire."

⁴ When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. ⁵ Then I said:

"Lord, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, ⁶ let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's family, have committed against you. ⁷ We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.

⁸ "Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, ⁹ but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.'

¹⁰ “They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. ¹¹ Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favour in the presence of this man.”

I was cupbearer to the king.

2 In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before, ² so the king asked me, “Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart.”

I was very much afraid, ³ but I said to the king, “May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?”

⁴ The king said to me, “What is it you want?”

Then I prayed to the God of heaven, ⁵ and I answered the king, “If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favour in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it.”

⁶ Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, “How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?” It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time.

Break into groups of 2 or 3. Read the passage and answer the questions.

- 1. Twice Nehemiah prays, what do you learn from his prayers?**
- 2. How does Nehemiah feel about his own people?**
- 3. Why is Nehemiah afraid? What does he do with the fear?**
- 4. What can we learn from Nehemiah’s example as we approach someone to ask them to read with us?**

What if the person I approach says “no”?

Mark 6:2-6

“Where did this man get these things?” they asked. “What’s this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing? ³ Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph,^[a] Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him.

⁴ Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honour except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home.” ⁵ He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. ⁶ He was amazed at their lack of faith.

2 Corinthians 2:15-17

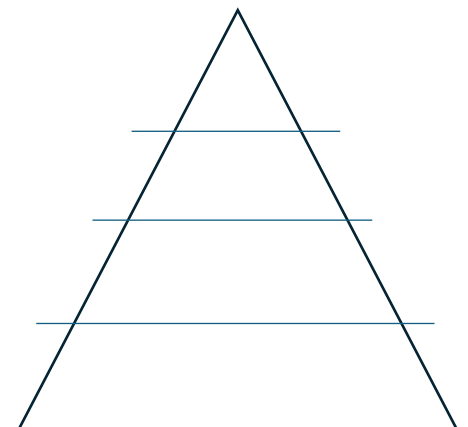
¹⁵ For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. ¹⁶ To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life. And who is equal to such a task? ¹⁷ Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, as those sent from God.

What if they say “yes”?

The greatest hindrance to inviting someone to read one-to-one will be an unbiblical view that you are not ready for this. You will tell yourself that you haven’t been properly trained or simply don’t know enough about the Bible to help another person along the way. In fact, you may even try to convince yourself that someone should be initiating the Bible reading one-to-one with you, rather than you initiating it with another person. It’s a tempting thought. But it’s also just not true. Any committed Christian is capable of initiating good conversation on a biblical text.

David Helm, “One-to-one Bible Reading”, Matthias Media, 2011

U	C	(I don’t know how capable I am)
C	C	(I know how capable I am)
C	I	(I know I need to grow)
U	I	(I don’t know how incapable am)



1 Corinthians 2:1-5

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, announcing the mystery of God to you, I did not come with brilliance of speech or wisdom. ² I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ I came to you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of wisdom but

with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, ⁵ so that your faith might not be based on human wisdom but on God's power.

Now go and ask that person you've been praying for:

"Would you have any interest in reading the bible with me for 6 weeks?"

Introducing "Uncover" John

For homework:

Pray for your two friends everyday for two minutes this week

Look through the Uncover John's gospel and become familiar with it

Consider asking one of your friends to read the bible with you

MEET JESUS

6 steps for using Uncover

A quick start training guide with suggested
pathways for reading through Uncover John.
1 hour

6 steps to using Uncover

PRAY + INVITE + READ

1. PRAY + INVITE someone to do Uncover with you.
2. PRAY + READ through the Uncover passage you think you will discuss.

You don't have to be an expert on John, or on the section of John you're going to read together, but it's a good idea to be familiar with the passage so there are no surprises, and make sure you have some idea of what the passage is saying. And it's good to be aware of what's inside Uncover. Let's have a look.

3. PRAY + READ Uncover with someone.

There are lots of different ways that you can do this. There are no hard and fast rules. You can read and discuss as much Uncover as you want for as many sessions as your friend will meet with you. But it might be good to aim at a specific number. That will give your friend a sense of hope 😊

The Uncover John book includes a suggested pathway “Meeting Jesus through 6 encounters”:

Study A John 1:1-18 Meet Jesus with the world

John introduces Jesus in the most astonishing way — not with the birth of a baby, but with the start of the world. Here we meet the Word who made the world, who comes into his world as a human being to make God known. The scale of John's story is bigger than we could have ever imagined.

Study B John 3:1-21 Meet Jesus with the religious

In the darkness, Nicodemus — an important Jewish religious leader — comes to meet Jesus. He knows the astonishing things Jesus has been doing and he thinks Jesus must be from God, but he is uncertain. Jesus has some surprising things to say!

Study C John 4:4-41 Meet Jesus with the outsider

Jesus intentionally seeks this outsider, a woman others avoided — she's too scandalous! Jesus asks her for water to drink, but he has come to bring her something even better.

Study D John 11:1-45 Meet Jesus with the grieving

Jesus is confronted with the loss of a very close friend. Can he offer any hope in the face of death?

Study E John 18:28-19:22 Meet Jesus with the powerful

Jesus has been betrayed by a friend and arrested by the Jewish religious leaders for his claim to be the Son of God. He now meets the Roman Governor, Pilate, the man who has the power to sentence Jesus to death. Yet who is the one really in control?

Study F John 20:1-31 Meet Jesus with the sceptics

Jesus' friends and followers saw him die and helped with his burial. They were afraid and confused. But then they meet a man who says he is Jesus, the same Jesus who was crucified days before. How could this be true?

Let's road-test this in groups.

4. DISCUSS Uncover with someone.

It can be hard to start having an unstructured conversation about the section you just read. It can feel too open-ended. So, the 5Rs are suggested as a way to guide and open up (but not shackle or shut down) discussion. The 5Rs are:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Retell | the narrative (and recap what's come before).
Note anything that's unclear or confusing. |
| React | how are people reacting to Jesus? |
| Reveal | what is revealed about Jesus (and those meeting him) through words and actions? |
| Reason | what reason might John have for including this event? |
| Respond | what does John teach us about how to respond to Jesus? |

Let's practise using the 5 Rs.

5. REFLECT + RESCHEDULE.

It's ok to ask your friend how they found reading and discussing Uncover. Assuming that they didn't hate it and don't want to ever do it again, it's good to schedule in a next time.

6. PRAY + REFLECT.

Pray for God to work in your friend's heart. Remember that it's God's power that will convince and change them, by His Word and His Spirit, not your skill in using Uncover.