

One to One Bible Reading – Session 4

Session 1 – What and Why?

Session 2 – Who and How part 1

Session 3 – How part 2

Session 4 – How part 3 - 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.

Why One-to-One Bible reading?

The *Spirit of God* takes the *Word of God* and applies it to the *People of God* through the *People of God*

Who is One-to-One Bible Reading for?

Everyone

How to do One-to-One?

Pray + Invite + Read

Methods of Reading One-to-One

COMA compared with 5Rs

Introducing “Uncover” John

Videos

Uncover Explained (<https://vimeo.com/887491631/b23f5f8430>)

Uncover Stories (<https://vimeo.com/888557153/e39bf92a38>)

The historical reliability of John’s Gospel (<https://vimeo.com/888570289/1e4cb3c1c4>)

Testimony of coming to Jesus through Uncover (<https://vimeo.com/868601459/f043c2ec4a>)

Training Resources

6 steps for using “Uncover” John

<https://meetjesus.au/wp-content/uploads/6-steps-to-using-Uncover.pdf>

Different pathways through “Uncover” John

<https://meetjesus.au/wp-content/uploads/Pathways-through-Uncover-John.pdf>

“Uncover” John with Catholics

<https://meetjesus.au/wp-content/uploads/Pathways-through-John-RC-1.pdf>

Using “Uncover” John to answer common questions and objections

<https://meetjesus.au/wp-content/uploads/Using-Uncover-to-answer-questions-and-objections.pdf>

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Pathways through Uncover John

A list of short reading plans (6-7 sessions each), with suggested passages selected according to the person who is interested in reading Uncover.

Pathways through Uncover John

Selective short reading plans

Pathway 1: Meeting Jesus through 6 encounters (A to F)

Who? For anyone who wants to meet Jesus personally (if unsure, choose this one)
What? Taking them through some key encounters Jesus has with various people in John that help them see that Jesus is good, trustworthy and compassionate.
Passages: John 1:1-18, 3:1-21, 4:4-42, 11:1-45, 18:28-19:22, 20:1-31

Pathway 2: Tracing the contours of John's narrative

Who? For anyone, especially if they are unfamiliar with the overall story of Jesus
What? Taking them through some key moments in John's narrative to help them see Jesus on the terms John gives us.
Passages: John 1:1-18, 4:4-42, 11:1-44, 13:1-17, 19:16-42, 20:1-31

Pathway 3: Stepping through the gospel via John

Who? For anyone who wants to explore what Christians believe
What? Taking them through a basic gospel outline – Jesus makes God known, our rejection of him & condemnation, Jesus's power & authority as the Son, the goodness & love of Jesus, the glory of Jesus in his death, Jesus' resurrection as Lord.
Passages: John 1:1-18, 3:1-21, 5:1-27, 11:1-44, 12:12-33, 20:1-31

Pathway 4: Uncovering the evidence

Who? For anyone who wants to explore the evidence for Jesus
What? Taking them through the 'signs' in John that point to who Jesus is and what he came to do.
Passages: John 2:1-11, 4:46-54, 5:1-15, 6:1-15, 9:1-41, 11:1-57, 20:24-31

Pathway 5: Jesus reveals himself

Who? For anyone who wants to consider who Jesus says he is
What? Key moments in John where Jesus makes "I am" statements to explain himself as the divine saviour
Passages: John 6:1-15 & 25-59, 8:48-59, 9:1-41, 10:1-21, 11:1-44, 13:21-14:7, 15:1-17



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Using Uncover John with Roman Catholic Friends

A series of passages and questions that might be particularly helpful for Roman Catholic friends to Meet Jesus through Uncover John.

Meeting Jesus in Uncover John

A series of six passages and studies

Study 1 – Grace

Grace is a common word that can mean lots of different things, especially in religious settings.

Read John 1:9-17

1. How would you define grace?
2. Circle all the times “grace” is used in this passage. What do you think the author John might mean by the word?
3. Who is this passage about?
4. Circle all the times “receive” is used in this passage. What is the relationship between “grace” and “receive”?
5. Jesus came to the Jewish people (v11) but they didn’t receive him. Who did receive Him? What happened when they did?
6. Receiving Jesus and receiving grace are very closely linked in this passage. The author John¹ is keen to show how not to receive Jesus and his grace in v 13 – what are they?
7. What is the way people can receive Jesus and his grace or favour?

Other passages ... Ephesians 2:1-10, Galatians 2:20-21, Mark 2:1-12

¹ There are two John’s in this book. The author John who is chosen to be a disciple of Jesus, and John the Baptist, Jesus’ relative who tells people about Jesus before Jesus makes himself public.

Study 2 – Sin

Last week we saw that Jesus shows us that God is full of grace and he shows his grace or favour towards people who don't inherit, earn or deserve it, just receive it. This week we will look at why it is so important to have God's favour.

Read John 1.29-34

1. How is Jesus described in this passage?

The heart of sin is failing to recognise and receive Jesus. Re-read John 1:10-11.

2. In this passage that we looked at last time we were told that Jesus made us and made the world (v 10, also v 3). If that's true and we fail to recognise and receive Jesus, would it be reasonable for Jesus to judge us for that?

3. If Jesus is the source of all life (a claim made in v4) and we reject him, what would a fair judgement be?

4. Did John know who Jesus was (v31)?

5. How did John find out who Jesus was?

6. Why is it so important for Jesus, as the Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world?

The phrase "Lamb of God" comes from the Old Testament. It goes back well over 1000 years before Jesus to the time of Moses and the first Jewish Passover.

The Passover is very important to Jewish people because it reminds them of a time God came to judge people for their sins.

The Jewish people were told if they sacrificed a lamb and put some of the blood on their front door frame God would pass over their houses and not judge them for their sins.

The Jewish people that trusted God and did what Moses said escaped God's judgement.

You can read about this in Exodus 12

Study 3 – The Atonement

In our first meeting we saw that God shows his grace, his favour towards those who don't deserve and don't earn it, just receive it. Secondly, we saw that Sin at its heart is failing to recognise Jesus and we face God's judgement because of this. Not even John the Baptist recognised Jesus until God showed him. We all reject Jesus and are helpless to fix this. This week we will hear about the amazing way God is able to forgive sin.

Read John 2:13-23

1. What Jewish festival is about to happen? From last week, what does this festival commemorate?
2. After Jesus died, his disciples remembered him saying "Zeal for your house will consume me". What house was Jesus referring to?
3. What sign does Jesus offer to show his authority? What is he referring to? What do those in the temple think he is referring to?
4. Remember this is all happening at the time of the Passover. We saw in our last passage that Jesus has just been declared by John to be "The Lamb of God who takes away the Sins of the world". Putting these things together, How does John show us how Jesus takes away our sin?
5. Is this Fair?
6. Is this Merciful?

Other passages ... Romans 3:21-28, 1 John 4:7-11, Mark 15:1-38

Study 4 – Faith

In our first meeting we saw that God shows his favour towards those who don't deserve it and don't earn it, just receive it. Secondly, we saw that sin, at its heart, is failing to recognise Jesus and we face God's judgement because of this. Not even John the Baptist recognised Jesus until God showed him. We all reject Jesus and are helpless to fix this. Last week we saw the amazing way that God is able to forgive sins by Jesus pouring out his blood, dying on the cross as a sacrifice in our place (the Lamb of God), so that God could Passover some people's sins. This week we will see what people need to do to receive this forgiveness.

Read John 3:9-21

1. In this passage Jesus is talking to Nicodemus, a Jewish Rabbi or teacher. What is the Rabbi struggling to believe?
2. What is Jesus referring to when he says "The son of Man must be lifted up". What must people have faith in or believe in to be saved from sin?
3. What is God's motivation for saving people
4. What happens when people believe (or have faith) that Jesus death on the cross has saved them from their sin?
5. Is there anything else people have to do to be saved from their sin?
6. If people's salvation depends on believing Jesus death pays for our sins completely can we be certain we are saved?
7. What happens if people don't believe that Jesus' death on the cross alone saves people from their sin?

In the time of Moses, God taught the Jewish people about faith. When they were in the desert, if they were bitten by a snake, all they had to do was look at a bronze snake on a pole that Moses had been instructed to make and then they would be healed. This symbol of a bronze snake on a stick has become a universal symbol for doctors.



Christianity, at its heart, is very simple. All that's required is believing Jesus is who he says he is and has done what he said he would. Sometimes this is called faith or trust.

Other passages ... Mark 4:35-41, Mark 5:23-43, Mark 10:14-16, Romans 4:1-4, Romans 4:16-5.1, Ephesians 2:8-9, John 9.1-13, Hebrews 11:1-3

Study 5 – What are good works

In our first meeting we saw that God shows his favour towards those who don't deserve it and don't earn it, just receive it. Secondly, we saw that Sin at its heart is failing to recognise Jesus and we face God's judgement because of this. Not even John the Baptist recognised Jesus until God showed him. We all reject Jesus and are helpless to fix this. Then we saw the amazing way God is able to forgive sin by Jesus pouring out his blood as a sacrifice so that God could Passover some people's sins. Last week we saw that all people need to do to receive God's forgiveness and eternal life is to trust that Jesus' death on the cross saves them. This week we will see the right way to respond to God's salvation.

Read John 6:25-59

Leading up to this passage, Jesus miraculously fed over 5000 people and then crossed Lake Galilee in northern Israel.

1. When Jesus arrives on the other side of the lake, many people are looking for him. Why does he tell us they are looking for him? What does Jesus tell them they should be working for?
2. What is the way people should do this work? (v29)
3. Who does Jesus say is the real bread from Heaven (v32-33)?
4. What problem does this cause for people (v41-42)?
5. Believing that Jesus has come from heaven is important for Jesus. What happens when people believe Jesus comes from heaven?
6. Jesus returns to the story of Manna in the desert to teach people what it means to believe in Jesus. He talks about people eating his flesh and drinking his blood like people ate Manna in the desert. What does he mean when he says, "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Manⁱ and drink his blood you have no life in you"?
7. What has this passage taught you about how to live as a Christian?

People in this passage seem to struggle with what it means to believe in Jesus, so Jesus reminds them of an event that happened in the Old Testament.

When the Jewish people had left Egypt, under Moses' leadership, God taught them how to rely on Him. Every morning he would provide a perishable bread that fell like dew. The Jews would collect that bread to have only enough food for that day. They had to trust that each day God would provide enough food for them because if God didn't, they would die.

You can read about this in Exodus 16.

Other passages ... Titus 2:11-14, Col 3:1-17, Luke 14:16-35, Mark 10:17-31

ⁱ A term Jesus uses to refer to himself.

MEET JESUS

Using Uncover to answers questions & objections

Training in how to use questions and
objections to Christianity as a way into
reading Uncover John.

1 hour

Using Uncover to Answer Questions & Objections

1. People's questions & objections – not a problem

Many people have questions and objections about the church, Christian teaching and what they perceive to be Christian values and behaviour. Some people we invite to read Uncover with us may hesitate or even refuse on the basis of these questions and objections. But rather than these questions and objections blocking the way to reading Uncover with people, they can actually be a way into reading Uncover.

The questions and objections people have can open up the whole question of what God tells us, through John's writing, about who Jesus is, what He did, what He thought and what He taught. Often, it leads us to explain who Jesus isn't, what He didn't do, think or teach. These surprising discoveries can open the way for people to do more research about Jesus, and so read Uncover with us.

There are four parts to this method:

(a) A question or objection: It's important to listen carefully to someone's question, objection or comment that relates to Jesus and Christianity.

(b) A story about Jesus: We can respond to many issues with one of the events, stories or conversations from Jesus' life, recorded in the gospel narrative. If they will let you open Uncover with them, that's great. If not, you can retell the Jesus-episode. You don't need to include every element of the story, just the point(s) which relate to their question.

(c) A life/issue application: Next, try to give a brief summary that applies the story of Jesus to your hearer's particular situation, ideas, issues, comments, objections or questions.

(d) An invitation to do Uncover: You can then invite them to follow up, research more, check the facts, clarify the issues, etc., by reading Uncover with you.

2. Examples of questions & objections + possible responses in Uncover John

1. "I believe in science, logic and rationality not blind faith and superstition."
John 20:24-29; 19:17-37
2. "I've done too many bad things to be a Christian."
John 4:4-26; 21:15-19 (18:15-18, 25-27)
3. "I hate the self-righteousness I often see in religion."
4. "Religion seems so judgmental."
John 2:1-11; 4:4-26

5. "I wish there were some way to wipe out the past and start afresh."
John 1:1-18; 3:1-21
6. "All religions are the same. Whichever one you follow makes no difference."
John 1:1-18; 14:1-11
7. "Religion and the church are so corrupt and so horribly power-hungry these days."
8. "I'm angry at the abuse of power and the hypocrisy of religious people".
John 2:13-25; 9:1-41
9. "I'm happy and successful. Everything is fine. I just can't see that I need God."
John 5:1-30; 12:20-36
10. "Christianity and religion is just about keeping the rules."
11. "I hate the way religion says you have to follow all these rules and rituals to be a Christian."
John 6:25-59; 3:1-21
12. "The God of Christianity is so angry and unloving."
John 10:11-21; 13:1-17
13. "I'm just not a religious person."
John 20:24-29
14. "I'm a good person so I'm sure that God will accept me."
15. "As long as you're honest and good to people, I don't think God minds whether or not we're religious."
John 3:1-21; 6:25-59
16. "I just can't believe that God is willing to forgive people, just like that."
John 12:20-36; 19:17-37

Find more questions & objections with Bible passages and short answers on the Uncover John website:



<https://uncover.org.au/john/ask/>

Let's try the 5Rs together as a group

Luke 18:9-14

⁹To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

¹³“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

¹⁴“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Retell

React

Reveal

Reason

Respond

Break into groups of 2 or 3 and one person should facilitate the 5Rs to get some practice

John 15:1-17

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

⁹ “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

Retell

React

Reveal

Reason

Respond

Let's hear stories of one-to-one bible reading experiences people have already had

Common FAQs

Is it only one to one? Can it work with more people?

It can work say 2 to 1 or 1 to 2. For example 1 to 2 can be a good way to train another Christian to read the bible with someone else. 2 to 1 can be a good way for a couple of women to read the bible with a young mum who has a young child with one of the women able to look after the child while bible reading happens. Remember that the more people you add, the less the intimate dialogue decreases.

How do I deal with the relational cost of asking someone I know well?

It is often the people closest to us who are hardest to read the bible with for different reasons. It could change the relationship for the best eternal purpose we pray, but it can also make it awkward. Pray that we would be willing to count the cost and that the person would be receptive. Remember that Jesus's family once thought he was "out of his mind" (Mark 3:21) and "his brothers did not believe him" (John 7:5) but eventually his mother and brothers came to believe (Acts 1:14).

Do I have to read "Uncover" John with someone or can I read another part of the bible?

Feel free to read something else if you think it is more appropriate. Another gospel to read could be Mark which is shorter with action filled sections that are shorter in length than John's. Or Genesis if you think it might be better to back to the start with the person you're thinking of inviting.

What about reading other things apart from the Bible?

It would be good to start with the bible because we believe that God has revealed himself through His word. But there might be a season when reading another book might be helpful. This might be sections of a book that can help with apologetic questions the person might have (eg. "The Reason for God") or say a book on parenting or marriage if the person has some interest in hearing what Christians think about these topics. If this was the case, then I would return to bible reading after a season of reading another book.

What do I do after finishing "Uncover" John with the person?

If the person is open to reading more of the bible then follow up with another book of the bible that you think would be suitable with the person. The resource below ("One to One Bible Reading") has resources on how to read other parts of the bible using the COMA method instead of the 5Rs. If they would like to finish then thank them for their willingness to read with you and let them know that you are willing to help them if they have any more questions about Christianity. If they have decided to follow Jesus then think about how to connect them to a church or to a bible study group.

How do I know when to finish reading the bible with the person?

There might be a number of good reasons to finish:

- There are ongoing opposite understandings of the bible text being read
- There might be other important commitments that either of you have that change the circumstances of being able to meet
- The other person is moving away to another place that makes it hard to meet

It's always good to review regularly to see if the other person wants to finish (at the end of every book of the bible being read).

Further Resources

The Word One to One

www.theword121.com

<https://www.youtube.com/@TheWordOnetoOne>

Read John's Gospel in full with provided notes that you read through with a friend
Available for free on an app in iOS or Android (<https://www.theword121.com/app>)
Free pdf downloads (<https://www.theword121.com/books/category/John+%282021%29>)
Or printed books for purchase (<https://wanderingbookseller.com.au/collections/word-one-to-one>)

I would recommend this resource if you don't feel any confidence to facilitate a discussion using the 5Rs. There is already an "expert" who has written notes, provided background and answers questions the reader will raise. All you have to do is to read it with the person.

One to One Bible Reading

By David Helm

<https://matthiasmedia.com.au/products/one-to-one-bible-reading>

A great, simple, short book on how to read the bible with someone else. Many of the ideas in this course has come from this resource. It also has a number of free downloadable resources for reading different parts of the Bible using the COMA method.

https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0147/1830/4342/files/OTOBR-Sheets-for-copying-A4_b4621a3e-a74d-46c1-b729-1f0fdbec06b0.pdf?42204

Let's set a date to meet again to encourage one another with stories (this won't be livestreamed)

For homework:

- Keep praying for 2 friends for 2 mins everyday
- Practice the 5Rs
- Invite one friend to read Uncover John with you
- Start reading Uncover John with your friend
- Meet again to encourage one another

Sample of "The Word One to One"

Start Here

Chapter 1

- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 2 He was with God in the beginning.
- 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.
- 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.
- 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Amazing beginnings!

Look how often the phrase **the Word** is used

- John stresses twice – **the Word** was there in the beginning.

What or who is **the Word**?

▽ 1 **The Word** was with God and was God.

▽ 2 **The Word** is a person!

▽ 3 **The Word**, who is God and a person, made everything.

But John's claims for **the Word** go even further!

What difference does **the Word**

make for **life**?

▽ 4 • **The source of life!**

• **The answer for life!**

• **Eternal life!**

This makes sense if, as John has just claimed, **the Word** is our creator!

The Word existed before time, before creation, before 'the beginning'!

In short... **He** is eternal!