



# WIELDING THE BIBLE

LIVING IN GOD'S REDEPTIVE STORY

## A THOUGHT ON WIELDING THE BIBLE

---

We live in a world where we have access to news & information any time we like. The endless news cycle and the accessibility of the internet means we can know everything about everywhere. This is a blessing sometimes, but it also means that we are influenced by curated narratives, perspectives and opinions about the world, life & what it means to live. The 24/7 access we have means we always have someone else telling us how to live and how to be in the world. This is a problem.

Paul's letter to the Romans urges us, "Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world,". Rather he says we should, "let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think." We believe a huge part of this is listening to, reading and engaging with God's story, told in the Bible. The Bible is a collection of 66 different books, it spans 1000's of years and ultimately it all points to Jesus; revealing his good & beautiful work in the world, and how we can join his redemptive story.

This month we want to engage in creative, fresh, deep and regular ways with the gift that is the Bible.

***Wielding the Bible: living in God's redemptive story.***

#THETRANSFORMATIONTREK - WIELDING THE BIBLE

KEY VERSES

*Hebrews 1:1-2*

*2 Timothy 3:16-17*

*Psalms 119:105*

*Hebrews 4:12*

*Psalms 1*

*Joshua 1:8*

*James 1:22-25*

*Colossians 3:16*

*Proverbs 1:1-7*

*Isaiah 53*

*Acts 2:1-21*

*Ephesians 1*

*Revelation 1:1-20*

*2 Corinthians 1:3-4*

*Romans 15:4*

*Ephesians 6:10-28*

*2 Corinthians 10:3-5*

*Reading the Bible can be like meeting someone you don't know, who, oddly, somehow seems to know you deeply. It's uncanny.*

*Max Lucado*

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

## **Week 1 - The Bible's transformative purpose**

Read and reflect on **Hebrews 1:1-2, Timothy 3:16-17, Psalm 119:105, Hebrews 4:12**

1. What do you think the Bible's purpose is?
2. How has the Bible shaped your life?
3. If you had to sum up the story of the whole Bible in 1-2 sentences, what would you say?
4. What does it mean to live in God's redemptive story compared to the alternative story of today's culture?

**Personal challenge:** Taking inspiration from the suggestions in the practice guide and make a plan to read the Bible consistently and creatively this month.

## **Week 2 - Applying the Bible for everyday life in community**

Read and reflect on **Psalm 1, Joshua 1:8, James 1:22-25, Colossians 3:16**

1. How do these verses encourage and challenge you in the way you wield the Bible?
2. What do these verses tell you about how the Bible was used by the early church?
3. How can you implement more community-led reading or discussion around the bible in your small group, family or friendships?
4. What will you take from this practice into your regular daily life going forward?

**Personal challenge:** Try and read the Bible in a way that is different than you normally do. See the practice guide for creative ways to engage with the Bible, individually and in community.

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

## **Week 3 -Understanding the Bible in the way it was written**

Read and reflect on **Proverbs 1:1-7 (Wisdom/Poetry), Isaiah 53 (Prophecy), Acts 2:1-21 (Historical), Ephesians 1 (Epistle), Revelation 1:1-20 (Apocalyptic)**

1. What differences did you notice in the passages given this week?
2. Why do you think it's important to understand the context in which the various parts of the Bible were written?
3. Our background, experience and tradition all work as a lens on how we read the Bible. What lenses are you aware of that affect the way you read and understand the Bible?
4. What are some ways you could better understand the author's intent and the context of a particular passage in the Bible?

**Personal challenge:** As part of your Bible reading this week, try reading a commentary on a verse, or googling the context behind a verse.

## **Week 4 - Wielding the Bible in tough times and spiritual warfare**

Read and reflect on **2 Corinthians 1:3-4, Romans 15:4, Ephesians 6:10-18, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5**

1. How has the Bible provided comfort and hope in the most difficult times in your life?
2. What verses or passages bring you the most comfort, and how can you share them with others in need?
3. How has the Bible helped you in a spiritual battle?
4. How can the Bible equip you for spiritual battles in the future?

**Personal challenge:** Implement some strategies this week to wield the Bible effectively in your spiritual life.

# BIBLE READING TOOL

S

**Scripture:** Open the verse/paragraph/chapter from the Bible that you want to learn from & read it, either out loud (depending on where you are) or in your head.  
(Do this a couple of times)

O

**Observe:** Firstly, ask yourself what stands out to you in the verse? Secondly, consider the context of this verse by asking questions of the text like, why is this being said? Who said it? Who is hearing it? This will help you learn and dig deep into it.

A

**Application:** How can you apply the truth you learned from the text in your own life? What does God want you to change? What area/s does He want you to grow in?

P

**Pray:** This next step is important, so don't take it lightly. Prayer is where we come to God and bring to him what we have learnt. We ask his Spirit for strength and transformation.

S

**Share:** Share with others. Share with your small group. Share what you are learning, challenged by, encouraged with. Share the research, the context, the information you have found about the passage.

## LECTIO DIVINA

Establish a time and place that are both quiet and free from distraction. After selecting one passage from the Bible, read and move slowly through each of the five parts of reading.



### READ

**Read** (lectio): Read the passage slowly and carefully. Take your time. As you move through the text, pay close attention to what words and ideas draw your attention in unique ways. When your focus is drawn to a particular word or thought, pause to reflect on it.



### REFLECT

**Reflect** (mediatio): Upon completing the passage, return to the beginning and read again. On your second journey through the text, allow the text to connect with you personally. Which words or phrases resonate in your heart, your season of life, in this moment. Ask, "What do I need to know, or be, or do in light of the text? What does this mean for my life today?"



### RESPOND

**Respond** (oratio): Talk to God about your experience. If you're confused, say that. Moved? Express gratitude to God. Upset? Tell him about it. Compelled to worship? Worship. If the text has brought something else to mind, talk to God about that.



### REST

**Rest** (contemplatio): Pause to sit in God's presence before moving on from the moment. You might express wonder, awe, gratitude, or praise through words, or you might allow yourself to feel and experience these things quietly before God.

## READING SCRIPTURE ALOUD TOGETHER

There are many parts of the Bible that come to life in new ways when we read them out loud together and in one sitting. Spend a few moments reading through the following steps in order to make the necessary decisions and familiarise yourself with the process before starting the practice. Once you've made the necessary decisions (which passage, who reads, who's praying, etc), do the practice together as a group.

- 1. Get Comfortable** – You'll be reading for the next 20 or so minutes, so make sure that you're in a place, position, and posture to be still, attentive, and open to God.
- 2. Pick a Text** – There are so many passages and books of the Bible with which to try this. Pick one of them to spend time reading out loud as a community. Some suggestions for reading aloud: Ruth, Psalm 119, Matthew 5 – 7, John 18 – 21, Galatians, Philippians, James, 1 John, 2 John, or 3 John.
- 3. Establish The Reader(s)** – Decide who will read the text. One person can read the whole thing, a few of you can split it, or (what we would recommend) each person can read some of it until the whole text is finished. Spend a moment to decide how you will break up the text and who will read it.
- 4. Invite the Holy Spirit** – Take a deep breath and settle in. Have one person invite the Holy Spirit to help you all to listen in a posture of surrender and to shape you by what is read.
- 5. Read** – Spend time reading the entire text aloud together in one sitting.
- 6. Reflect** - Talk about what stood out to you.



# FAMILY PRACTICE

To know God, our children need to know about him through the Bible. We shouldn't underestimate the significant value of bringing our families together around the the Bible in our daily and weekly routines.

## A Couple of Ideas

**Young kids & toy stories** | Read a Bible storybook together. Then, gather up toys around you and retell the story using the items as characters and props. This can be as simple or elaborate as you'd like to make it.

**Primary school aged kids & lunchbox notes** | Jot a Bible verse on a piece of paper and slip it in your child's lunchbox for a small daily connection with God through the Bible.

**Teenagers & mirrors** | Write an encouraging Bible verse on your teenager's bathroom mirror once a week using a dry erase marker. This small but powerful gesture can help your teenager be reminded of God's promises.

**The Example** | Like, most of the practices, if your kids see you genuinely enjoying, using and reading the Bible, this will have a profound impact on their relationship with it and how they use it now and in the future.



# Discovery Bible Method

Anyone Anywhere Anytime  
Disciple to Conversion  
Rapid Mobilisation

DBM is a simple, structured way of opening the Bible with someone so that they encounter God directly through His living Word.

The aim is to allow participants to discover God's truth for themselves, rather than relying on a leader. As the leader, you are there to empower them and to pray, not to have all the answers.

It's best to start with two or three people, or coach one person to do DBM with their community. Try to reach a community, not just an individual.

## The DBM method is as simple as

### Ask

Ask each person how they went with the previous week's commitment.

**"How did you go with \_\_\_\_\_?" "Who did you tell?"**

### Bible

- Choose a short passage from the Bible (around 5-10 verses).
- Have someone read it aloud, then ask someone else to reread the passage.
- Have the participants retell the story from memory.
- Spend some minutes silently reading the passage again.
- Silently pray for God to speak directly from the passage.
- Ask open-ended questions, such as:  
**"What do you see?" "What does this say about God?"**  
**"What does this say about us?" "What is God saying to you?"**
- Let the participants do most of the talking and don't be afraid of silences.
- *If the session veers off course, you can ask,*  
**"Where do you see that in the Bible?"**

### Commit

Let them suggest their own commitment to whatever God is saying to them. Ask them:

**"What are you going to do?" "Who are you going to tell?"**



Contact us:

[info@bdc.org.au](mailto:info@bdc.org.au)  
[www.bdc.org.au](http://www.bdc.org.au)