

Meeting Together

*A simple guide to start a Bible study and
prayer group*

***‘Jesus said, ‘Where 2 or 3 meet
together, I am there with you.’***

(Matthew 18:20)

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I dedicate this book to anyone who loves Jesus and wants to connect with others to grow in faith.

‘Grow in faith, together with others who call on the Lord.’

(2 Timothy 2:22)

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1. Introduction

Jesus met with people personally in homes, in the fields, at the lake, on the streets downtown. One of the very first things Jesus did after he rose from the dead, was meet 2 people on a long walk, and spent hours walking and talking with just them.¹

Do you have a sincere faith in Jesus?
Do you wish you could meet with some other people and grow in your faith?
You can!

In this short booklet I share some practical ideas on how you can get this going...

¹ Luke 24:13-35

2. Getting Started

It says in the book of Hebrews, ***‘Do not give up meeting together.’*** (Hebrews 10:25)

Maybe you are not going to church right now, but you have a sincere faith in Jesus. Well, you don't have to go to church to meet with other Christians.

‘Jesus said, ‘Where 2 or 3 meet together, I am there with you.’
(Matthew 18:20)

Jesus did not say there had to be a big group of people, or that one of them needed to be a bishop, elder, apostle, deacon or have a degree from a Bible college. Jesus did not say the leader of this meeting had to be a man. Jesus simply said that where even just 2 people meet together as followers of him, Jesus is there with them. Jesus, the King of kings, joins them for this meeting.

Let's get practical. Here's what you need:

1. Place to Meet:

Do you live somewhere – a home or apartment – where you can invite people to come in and have a cup of tea or coffee? Well, this is a place you can meet.

2. Bible:

Do you have a Bible? I suggest a translation that is easy to understand, like the NIV or CSB. God wants people to understand his Word, not to use a fancy version.¹

3. Hospitality:

Do you have something you can offer people to drink, like water, soda, coffee or tea?

If you have these three things, you are ready to invite people to meet together.

¹ Nehemiah 8:8 says, ***‘They read the Bible together, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood.’***

3. The Meeting

I suggest making the meeting 1 ½ hours. For example, 7:30pm – 9pm on a Wednesday or Thursday evening.

After people arrive (1 person or more), well, Jesus arrives, if you know what I mean. He said if even 2 people meet together he comes as well. So the meeting is in session!

Use the first 30 minutes to settle in, get a drink for everyone, ask how things are going, work, family.

After people are settled in, here are 4 simple steps to follow:

1. Start the Meeting with a Prayer:

You can simply say:

‘OK, let’s start our time together with a prayer.’

Bow heads, close eyes, and simply pray:

‘Dear Jesus, thank you for this meeting together. Thank you for

meeting with us. We pray that we will grow together in our faith. Amen.'

2. Read the Bible:

I would suggest starting with the Gospel of Mark. Have someone volunteer to read the section – maybe about half a chapter. So, at the first meeting, have someone volunteer to read out loud the first 20 verses of the first chapter.

Others can read along in their own Bible, or just sit back and listen.

After this has been read it is time for discussion together.

3. Discussion:

Remember, you don't have to have all the answers to lead a discussion. You are not saying you are the expert, just because you are the host. This is a time together, and Jesus is with you, and you are simply reading his Word, and discussing what you read together.

There is really only one guideline I would suggest: Ask people to try to only discuss the passage you read together

– not other parts of the Bible, not other preachers or books.

You can say something like this:

‘Now we are going to discuss what we just read. Let’s try to only talk about what we just read, and not about other parts of the Bible, or other sermons we heard. Let’s try to just focus on this part of the Bible, these first 20 verses of chapter 1.’

‘So let’s start... Does anybody have any thoughts on what we just read here?’

Enjoy the discussion! Everyone will learn from one another, and the Lord will bless this time together.

Now, if someone asks you – the leader of this group – a question about the Bible passage, here is something I learned: Don’t feel you need to have the answer. You can take the question and pass it to others. For example:

‘That is a great question! Do any of the rest of you have thoughts or insights on this question?’

This shows that you are ‘facilitating’ a discussion – making it happen for the group. By sharing the question with others, rather than answering it, you are showing that you are also learning.

4. Prayer Time Together:

This is a precious and powerful way to close a meeting. You can pray with each other, and for each other, in Jesus’ name.

You can ask everyone in the group if they have anything they need prayer for. Maybe you or someone can write down the prayer requests. And then you can say:

‘Let’s pray for each other now, and close our time together. How about we pray for these things, and then does anyone want to close our time in prayer? John, will you say the last prayer when we have covered these things?’

And here is an example of a prayer:

‘Dear Jesus, we thank you for meeting with us here. We thank you

that we can read your Word and learn about you. I pray for Mary. She needs a new job, Lord. Please provide her with some good news about a new job this week. We ask this in Jesus' name, amen.'

After people have prayed for each other, and John has closed out with a last prayer, thank everyone for coming, and ask if everyone is good for the same time and place next week. Tell people you will pick up where you left off in the Gospel of Mark.

4. Inviting People & Sending People

Invite people to join you. Simple as that. However, remember the discussion guideline: Discuss only the passage of the Bible that is read together.

If you keep your meeting simple and focused – reading the Bible, discussion and prayer – it should stay healthy.

Now, rather than a group getting too big, you can encourage someone else to start a group. Leading a group is not for everyone, but it is for some! It is simple, and Jesus joins the meeting. No degree is necessary (I never went to seminary or Bible college), no studies of Latin, Hebrew or Greek. Just humility, a love of Jesus, and a desire to grow with other believers.

The motive to lead a group should be pure – to honor Jesus. The motive should not be to be a teacher, or to have influence or power. The Bible warns us that this kind of desire for power or money will be judged.¹

¹ 1 Timothy 1:7; James 3:1

If there is someone who you feel would be a great leader of a group, encourage them to consider it, pray about it, and start it.

5. Final Thoughts

I attend a local church. It has leaders, elders, deacons, etc. However, far more important than being a member of a local church, is that you *are* the church.

We are told that Jesus is the ***‘living stone’*** and the ***‘cornerstone’***. And we are told that we, too, are ***‘living stones.’***¹

You see, when people meet in a local church – made of brick and mortar – well, the only Spirit of God in that place is the Spirit of God in the hearts of those who go there. When the people go home, the ‘church’ has left. The people of God are the church.

‘The Holy Spirit does not live in buildings made with human hands.’
(Acts 17:24)

You and other Christians are the only real church building. Look at this passage:

‘You are members of God’s

¹ 1 Peter 2:4-6

household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus as the chief cornerstone.¹ In Jesus the building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in Jesus you are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. (Ephesians 2:19-22)

Your relationship with just Jesus is number one! Spend some time with him every day in the Word and in prayer. It is the same as meeting with others, but just you and Jesus.

And then on that foundation – Jesus Christ – you build relationships with other Christians.

‘They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.’ (Acts 2:46)

¹ Paul is speaking here about the prophets of old, prior to Jesus, and the apostles that Jesus appointed. See Mark 3:14-14; Hebrews 1:1-2

Thank you for taking time to read this book. For more free resources to encourage you in your faith, please visit:

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