

YOBL

Year of Biblical Literacy

Small Group Material

Each week's material summarises the major thematic elements of the portion of Scripture read and offers questions and exercises meant to lead to a deeper understanding and intimacy with God and others. Sometimes these questions are focused on a particular story from the week's reading. Sometimes they are questions that invite individuals to more vulnerably share the deep, true parts of who they are in light of what was read. The goal is not always intellectual knowledge or "Bible study" but true connection with Jesus and your community.

The material is meant to be finished in around 90 minutes and has timed guidelines for how long to spend on each section. Feel free to adapt this to your group accordingly.

We advise you to give the notes a thorough read through before the session so you can adapt accordingly - i.e some weeks reference the week before which those groups that meet fortnightly may not have covered. Feel free, as usual, to pass the notes to other people so they can lead.

Note that every 10 weeks or so, the format will change slightly, allowing you to evaluate as a group how YOBL has been going and how your group have experienced the material together. There may also be a simple bible study you can do together based on the material covered that week.

We hope that these will allow your group to really connect during this Year of Biblical Literacy.

The format of the notes is as follows...

Daily Reading/Resources for Week

The points highlighted in yellow will be the minimum required reading in order to fully participate in the week's session. It may also include watching a Read Scripture video. It might be wise to communicate this to your group in advance of the session!

Focus of time together

Offers a brief summary of what the material is hoping to accomplish in a given week.

Quick Fire/Connecting Exercise

These short discussions allow you to connect as a group before delving deeper into the study. They can relate to the study but sometimes may just be discussion points that will hopefully allow the group to discover more about each other. Encourage everyone to

share as it is a good opportunity to get people talking before getting into the study, hopefully meaning they are more likely to contribute later on.

Opening Prayer

A written prayer, guidelines for prayer or portion of Scripture to pray aloud together

Intro to Discussion

The Intro to Discussion offers a summary of the week's Scripture reading and dives deeper into context, things to look for, literary characteristics and questions that the reading may have brought up. It is meant to give a foundational understanding of a section of Scripture and set the trajectory of what the week's discussion will be centred around.

Whole Group Discussion

These are questions meant to facilitate large group discussion (6-20 people) and may last up to 75 minutes. Both Questions for Large Group Discussion and Questions for Small Group Discussion may fall into one of the following categories.:

Questions for Basic Understanding

These questions are to help us interpret and understand the text as it was intended to be interpreted and understood.

Questions for Listening to Scripture

These questions are to help us be affected by Scripture in the way it was intended to affect us.

Questions for Interacting with Scripture

These questions are to help us slow down, to taste and notice Scripture, savour its richness and meditate on its complexity of meaning.

Questions for Examining Ourselves

These questions are to help us look at ourselves, be aware and honest about who we are in light of our interaction with Scripture and consider any appropriate action.

Practicing Community Exercise

These exercises/questions are to help us reflect thoughtfully on our felt experiences together as community and provides opportunities to build on it further.

Small Group Discussion

These are questions meant for small group discussion around 2-5 people. They often include invitations to share more deeply vulnerable and personal things in smaller, safer spaces.

Closing

Guidelines for how to close your time in prayer together.