

## **C**ommon asked Bible Impact Group Questions

The purpose of BIGs is to make healthy Jesus disciples who listen to and follow Jesus everyday everywhere by processing daily life using their biblical tools (Set Free Nowwww).



**Q:** *Bible Impact Groups are not accountability groups?*

**A:** The answer is both yes and no. BIGs do not hold people accountable not to sin or not to do a certain behavior. They hold each other accountable to using the life-change process laid out in Scripture – the **FREE**dom process. Healthy disciples don't focus on behavioral change, but heart and life change through changing their thinking. This occurs by exposing and exchanging the lies in a believers head and then exercising the truths God gives them through the Spirit's power.

**Q:** *BIGs work on only one area of your life at a time. Isn't that a license to keep repeating other sinful behaviors?*

**A:** Is the Spirit of God big enough to do the job of changing a life? If so, let's trust Him to point out what needs to be changed in each person's life and in what order it should be changed. Only He can see inside the heart.

**A:** Furthermore, it's the faulty mindset of "I can do what I want" that robs the believer of their peace in the first place. It is simply neither profitable nor in the believer's interest to go wild in any area of their life. Emphasis should be placed upon trying to listen to and follow Jesus everyday everywhere. If one stops doing, this they will end up sinning and leaving the presence of God where everything they need is found. Each person should be helped to see that sinning always hurts them, maybe not now, but certainly later (Heb. 11:25)!

**Q:** *If BIG is about asking the 4 P's, I can get that done in 15 minutes. How does that help?*

**A:** BIGs are not about asking the questions! They are about each believer experiencing and getting closer to Jesus for themselves. If one is getting done in 15 minutes, BIG turns into a program, not a tool to see one's life transformed (the gold, silver and precious stones of 1 Cor. 3). The 4 P's are just a way to hold each accountable to the **FREE**dom process.

**A:** If one does not have any praises or is not hearing from Jesus in the Word, their partner should be asking, "Are you actually attempting to listen to and follow Jesus everyday everywhere?" If so, they should be seeing Jesus' fingerprints on their life and/or hearing Him in their Bible reading. If not, a good question to ask is, "Is your way of living working for you?" Encourage them to continue to process "the why not" through the **FREE**dom process. As this happens, there will be no way the group will be done in 15 minutes.

**Q:** *It seems that my BIG ends up with us just talking. Is that okay?*

**A:** The question should be, "Who or what are you talking about?" The overall thought of the 4 P's is to see how each other is walking with Jesus. This is why the principle of only sharing about yourself (not friends, spouses, children, etc.) was put into the Card. BIGs meet to practice the **FREE**dom process. Without this principle, the group time ends up being a fellowship time, which can only lead one to stay stuck in the sin-confession-sin cycle.

**Q:** *I see that BIGs don't have leaders, don't you run the risk of heresy?*

**A:** There is only one person with an "S" (Savior) on His chest and it's not us! This is why BIGs are not for Bible study. It's about letting each person learn how to hear from Jesus for themselves while reading the Word. A lot of our fears of heresy will melt away as the group listens to each other using the *Set Free Nowwww* tools during the meeting time. The Spirit of God using the people of God can keep the group in the direction it needs to go.

## ommon asked Bible Impact Group Questions

**Q:** *Anyone can make disciples without formal training? It seems too easy!*

**A:** The real question should be, “Do I trust the Word of God and the Spirit of God to do their job without my involvement?”

**A:** The more training you require in making disciples, the more people will come to believe they can't do it, only pastors or leaders can. This means less and less people will have more than a Sunday faith. Yet, anyone can take a card and do it without ever coming to a discipleship class, even the newest believers.

**Q:** *Why read the entire Bible in a year?*

**A:** Keep in mind reading the entire Bible in a year is a goal. If it takes someone two years to read it all the through, praise God! They simply start over once they are done.

**A:** There are many reasons for reading the entire bible.

1. Healthy believers live with a biblical worldview: listening to and following Jesus everyday everywhere (Jn. 10:27). The Word of God is necessary to screen out all other voices so the believer knows they are hearing from Jesus.
2. Believers must have a source of truth to retrain their brains. As life change comes by the renewing of their mind, not their behavior, their thinking must exchanged with God's thinking, which is found in the Bible.
3. The Bible contains the specific truths the Spirit will use to form their shield of faith that can keep out lie-based messages they will hear throughout their day.
4. The “hit and miss” approach of reading the Bible or reading in an unscheduled manner, leaves the enemy room to create doubts in their mind. “Did that passage really apply to you? Did you really hear God on that one?” Reading in a scheduled way takes the believer's whims and wants out of the picture.
5. They learn their Bible for themselves! As they continually read through the Bible each year, believers can get the whole counsel of God, which helps keep verses in context.
6. As one person answered the question why he reads the Bible each day, “It's because I don't have the patience to wait for tomorrow's newspaper. I would rather read tomorrow's news today. The Bible is tomorrow's events that have already been spoken of by the prophets, concerning world affairs and God's plan for Israel and the nations. Every human being can say, “I remember yesterday, and I even remember today,” but only God can say, “I remember tomorrow” as He's been there already.

**Q:** *Aren't BIG's just another program?*

**A:** Anything can become a program, if you let it. The purpose of BIGs is to be accountable to the process of life change, not get through the 4 P's. If someone answers the first P of Praise: How has Jesus made Himself known to you this week? with, “I don't know. He hasn't.” Don't move on to the next P! Are they really saying they haven't seen Jesus work in or touch their life all week long? If this is true, something is wrong and should be processed through the **FREEdom** process. Moving onto the next P would make BIGs a program. Stopping to process the “why not?” keeps BIGs about making healthy disciples – those who are getting better at listening to and following Jesus *everyday everywhere*.

**Q:** *What if I'm not hearing Jesus in my reading?*

**A:** Listening is a skill. Ask yourself, “When someone is talking to me, am I thinking about my response to them or am I trying to understand what they're saying to me?” If it is the former, you'll have a hard time listening to Jesus. If this is true, it's time to practice James 1:19, “Be quick to listen and slow to speak.” God gave us two ears and one mouth for a reason! Practice the skill of listening by putting into your own words what those around you are talking about. This will force you to stop thinking about you and more about the other person. You'll be able to hear Jesus in the Word the more you develop this life skill.

## **C**ommon asked Bible Impact Group Questions

- A:** Ask yourself, “Do I feel I have to ‘learn’ something in order to hear Jesus?” BIG reading is about learning how to hear Jesus’ voice, as the Word of God is Jesus speaking to us. The Bible is more than *the* source of truth; it’s also about the *only verifiable* source of His voice. Leave the fact gathering to studying the Word. Practice your listening skills in your BIG reading. Is it possible to simply be with someone without doing or learning something in order to make the relationship better? Our time BIG reading should be about spending time with Jesus, rather than merely acquiring more knowledge about Him.
- A:** Another way to hear Jesus, no matter where you’re reading in the Bible, is to keep asking, “Who is Jesus. Why should I trust him; and, what do I need to put into my filter based upon what I’m reading?” Again, this focuses your attention on Jesus rather than you. This moves learning to listening as this new truth is put into your filter so you can better know His voice throughout your day.

**Q:** *What do I do if all my BIG person wants to do is dump their problems on me, which only drags me down?*

- A:** We are to accept each other where we’re at, though not liking what each other does, while lovingly nudging each other towards Jesus. All believers should be in process of letting the Spirit replace their character with Christ’s character. This process takes time as it takes time to retrain our brains. Let’s give each other that time.

BIGs, however, are also about being accountable to the changed life process. If the person only comes to lay their problems on their partner and not be accountable to change, it’s their partner’s responsibility to listen to Jesus as to how He wants them to nudge them towards Him. How does He want you to call your partner out? Does your partner really want to change or to simply complain? They shouldn’t be in a BIG if they don’t want to change. Listen to Jesus as to whether He is asking you to remove yourself from this BIG and o start another one with someone who does want to see their life changed.

If you’ve got other questions, don’t hesitate to ask! Either make a comment on a post or use the Contact Information below.



### **C**ontact Information

New Hope Community Church: 951-244-2177  
csuitt@hope4youtoday.com  
@Chris\_Suitt