

Getting Started: Bible Impact Group "How To's"

Four tasks to be accomplished in a BIG:

1. PRAISE JESUS FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE, FOR VICTORY AND/OR FOR ANSWERED PRAYER

Healthy believers have a daily walk with Jesus, and should see His fingerprints on their life.

Spend time praising Jesus for how He:

- Made Himself known to you,
- Revealed needed truths to you,
- Changed your life/gave you victory, or
- Answered prayer.



2. PERSONAL TIME WITH THE WORD OF GOD

Healthy believers develop their walk with and love for Jesus by getting into the source of truth, the Word of God (Ps. 119:9), which changes their life from the inside out (Jn. 8:31-32).

BIG Bible reading:

- Is about listening to Jesus speak into your life, not doing a Bible study (no workbooks either!) or getting the reading done. When you sense Him "speaking" or something "hits" you (i.e. conviction, encouragement, comfort, lies exposed, truths revealed, etc.) stop and listen. Then either finish your reading or pick up where you left off the next day.
- Is about reading the entire Bible in a year, which is roughly 3-4 chapters/day or about 25 chapters/week. Continually doing so helps you grasp Jesus' way of thinking, the basis of a changed life. Get a yearly reading schedule from morethanasundayfaith.com or simply choose any book and start reading. When a new member is added, they can either start where the group is or pick their own starting point.
- Is about allowing the Spirit of God to expose lies in and add specific lie-fighting truths to your filter.
- Is **not** about understanding everything you read. Sometimes, you won't "get" anything. That's okay! Jesus loves spending time with you. As you read in a scheduled manner, however, it's uncanny how God speaks into your life at just the moment you need it.

MAKING & REPRODUCING HEALTHY BELIEVERS

3. PROCESS DAILY LIFE THROUGH THE FREEDOM PRINCIPLES, WHICH PRODUCE CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER

Life change or becoming Christ-like is another mark of a healthy believer (1 Pet. 1:15), and this takes place in community with other believers (James 5:16).

- Ask the Spirit: what area of your life He wants to change. Share it with the entire group so they can pray for your victory.
- Before or at BIG do two things **if** you fall (1 Jn. 2:1). One, ask Jesus' forgiveness. Two, process your sin through the **FREEDOM** principles:

Freeze frame every thought – "What was I thinking before I sinned?"

Run those thoughts by the Spirit asking Him to **Expose** the lie(s) you acted upon and exchange it with the truth He gives you.

Exercise this truth next time by faith in the Spirit's strength.

This process leads to life change (Rom. 12:2), which helps you keep listening to and following Jesus throughout your day (Eph. 2:10).

- Each person shares *only about their life*; thus, what's shared in BIG stays in BIG making BIGs a safe place for life change to take place.
- There is no counseling or teaching in BIG, only listening to each other through the **FREEDOM** principles and mirroring back what is said to expose the lies in each other's thinking.



4. PRAY FOR EACH PERSON'S CHANGED LIFE AND FOR PEOPLE TO COME TO FAITH IN JESUS

Every believer is also to make healthy believers (Matt. 28:18-20). BIGs do this by praying regularly for each other's victory, especially when they're prompted by the Spirit to do so (Eph. 6:18) and by being ready to tell their Jesus story as to how God has and is changing their life (Acts 8:26-40).

- Identify by first name 2-3 people who live close by you and who the Spirit lays upon your heart to pray for their salvation.
- Each person writes these names on their BIG Card and prays for them throughout the week. It's a good idea to pray for one person from the list daily. There is a prayer guide included on the reverse side of the BIG Card. Also, by using your BIG Card as a Bible bookmark, you'll be reminded to pray for the salvation of those on your list.
- When these or others begin to seek Christ, they become good candidates for your BIG, which gets you ready to multiply into two healthy BIGs!

Card

DEVELOPING CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER QUESTIONS

Ask the following Developing Christ-like Character Questions during each BIG meeting. Asking these questions keeps it on track and away from becoming just a fellowship time or gab session. The purpose, however, is not to simply get through them. Take your time. Allow the Spirit to use the meeting time to help each person become more like Jesus. Each week a different person starts **BIG** by asking question #1. Each person answers the same question before moving onto the next one.

1. **Praise:** How has Jesus made Himself known to you this week? If not, use the **FREEDOM** process to discover why. If so, share victories, praises and/or answers to prayer.
2. **Personal time with and in the Word of God:** Did you finish your reading? What did you hear Jesus say to you? What are you going to do about it? If you didn't finish your reading, did you process the "why not," through the **FREEDOM** principles?
3. **Process daily life through the FREEDOM principles:** What area of your life is the Spirit asking to change? Use the following questions to help determine this area.
 - What hinders your walk with or holds you back from getting closer to Jesus?
 - What robs you of your peace? Joy? Love? Hope?
 - What causes you to feel guilty? Fear? Anxiety? Worry? Out of control? Anger?
 - What causes you to be impatient, unkind and/or harsh with others?
 - What bad habit or repeated sinful behavior needs to be removed?
 - Any relationships that need to be repaired or restored? Causes?
 - Is Jesus Lord of how you spend your time (including your thought life), your finances and the use of your abilities?
 - What keeps you from doing what God has asked you to do?

Name the area the Spirit is asking to change.

- a. Did you experience victory in the above named area? If so, praise the Lord!
- b. If not, have you asked Jesus to forgive you and then run it through the **FREEDOM** process? What did you learn? How will you apply what you learned next time you face a similar situation?
4. **Pray:** Have you prayed specifically for those in your group to live victoriously this week?
5. **Pray:** Who needs to hear what Jesus is showing you? Have you prayed for and taken the opportunity to verbally share it with them this week? Have you prayed for those on your list?
6. Have you been completely honest?

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

— Galatians 6:2

"Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed."

— James 5:16

STRATEGICALLY PRAYING FOR A HARVEST



Jesus said those around you will be “harassed and helpless without a shepherd;” thus, you’re to “ask the Lord of the harvest to send workers into His fields.” (Matt. 9:35-38) In the following prayers, you’re obeying this request to send you and/or others into the lives of those named on this card to show them how to put their faith in Jesus for what He did for them.

1. Jesus, I pray that you draw _____ to Yourself (John 6:44).
2. Jesus, I pray that _____ seeks to know You (Acts 17:27).
3. I pray that _____ hears and believes the Word of God for what it really is (1 Thess. 2:13).
4. I ask You, Jesus, to prevent Satan from blinding _____ to the truth (2 Cor. 4:4; 2 Tim. 2:25-26).
5. Holy Spirit, I ask You to convict _____ of his/her sin and need for Jesus’ redemption (John 16:7-14).
6. Jesus, I ask that You send someone who will share the gospel with _____ (Matt. 9:37-38).
7. I also ask that You give me the opportunity, the courage and the right words to share the truth with _____ (Col. 4:3-6; Eph. 6:19-20).
8. Jesus, I pray that _____ turns from his/her sin and follows You (Acts 17:30-31; 1 Thess. 1:9-10).
9. Jesus, I pray that _____ would put all of his/her trust in You (John 1:12; 5:24).
10. Jesus, I pray that _____ confesses You as Lord, takes root and grows in his/her faith and bears much fruit for Your glory (Rom. 10:9-10; Col. 2:6-7; Luke 8:15).



More Than a Sunday Faith

INTRODUCING: BIBLE IMPACT GROUPS

WHAT IS A BIBLE IMPACT GROUP?

A Bible Impact Group (BIG) is a practical way to help each believer process life using their *Set Free Nowww* tools so they can listen to and follow Jesus every day everywhere. As they do, lasting life change is experienced, joy, peace and love are tasted, and purpose for real living today is gained.

BIGs allow the Spirit of God through the Word of God and the People of God to change a believer’s life from the inside out (Col. 3:1-2:17), and to allow every believer to make more and healthier disciples (Matthew 28:18-20).

BIGs also incorporate the **DNA** of a healthy disciple (Acts 2:42-47): listening to and trusting Jesus and His Word (**D**ivine Truth), loving Jesus and other believers (**N**ourishing Relationships), allowing the Spirit to develop Christ-like character, and being a witness for Jesus (**A**ccomplishing Jesus’ Mission – worship and witness).

Here’s an overview of a BIG:

- BIGs meet once a week (face to face or over the phone/internet) for approximately one hour.
- BIGs are groups of two or three people of the same gender (a fourth person means the group is ready to multiply into two BIGs).
- There is no leader; thus, even the newest believer can do a BIG.
- The Bible, the only curriculum used in a BIG, impacts and changes the believer’s thinking, the basis for life change; thus, the name Bible Impact Group.
- Believers continue to learn how to process each day using the *Set Free Nowww* tools by working on one area of their life at a time.
- Four tasks are accomplished in a BIG:
 1. Praise Jesus for what He has done, where victory took place and/or how prayer was answered (**A** – worship).
 2. Personal time with and in the Word of God (**D**).
 3. Process daily life through the **FREEDOM** principles, which produce Christ-like character (**DN**).
 4. Pray for the Spirit to make each person more like Jesus and for others to come to faith in Jesus (**NA** – witness).

WHO SHOULD BE IN A BIG?

There are only two suggested qualifications for being in a BIG:

1. A desperate need for and a desire to know and love Jesus; the only One who can meet their needs and change their life (Heb. 12:1-3).
2. A willingness to daily *practice* filtering life using their biblical tools with others (Phil. 4:4-9).

WHEN WILL YOU START A BIG?

Grab two or three BIG Cards. Ask the Spirit with whom He wants you to start a BIG. When He shows

BIBLE IMPACT

Groups

“Iron sharpens iron,
So one person sharpens another.”
— Proverbs 27:17