

MAKING & REPRODUCING HEALTHY BELIEVERS

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

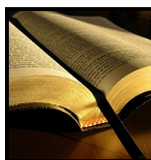
Four tasks to be accomplished in a BIG:



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

Healthy believers have a daily walk with Jesus; thus you should see His handprints on your life. BIGs spend time praising God. As you experience Jesus make Himself known to you, reveal needed truths, change your life, give you victory, or answer prayer, praise Him.

2. PERSONAL TIME WITH THE WORD OF GOD



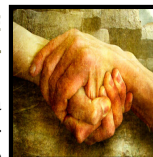
Healthy believers develop their walk with and love for Jesus by getting into the source of truth, the Word of God (Ps. 119:9; Jn. 8:31-32) and let Jesus free them from anything that hinders their walk with Him. For this to occur, you need to let the Bible impact and change your thinking; thus, the name Bible Impact Group.

The goal of BIG Bible reading is to let God speak into your life, not do a Bible study (no workbooks either!) or understand everything you read. It's about allowing the Spirit to expose the lies in your thinking by bringing to your mind the truths you need to exchange them with at the exact moment you need them. Thus, during BIG, insights gained into the Word and/or truths you need to add to your filter are shared.

The BIG should strive to read the entire Bible in a year, which is roughly 3-4 chapters/day or about 25 chapters/week. As a biblically-based truth filter is about how God thinks, continually reading through the Bible yearly will give you His way of thinking, which is the basis for experiencing God change your life.

The BIG can obtain a yearly reading schedule or simply choose any book and start reading. When a new member is added, this person can either start where the group is or pick their own starting point. As you read through the Bible in a scheduled manner, it's uncanny how God will speak into your life at just the moment you need it. When you sense Him speaking or something "hits" you (i.e. conviction, encouragement, comfort, exposing lies in your thinking, truths you need to hear, etc.) stop and listen. Then either finish your reading or pick up where you left off the next day. Sometimes, you won't hear or feel like you got anything out of your reading. That's okay! Jesus loves it when you simply spend time with Him.

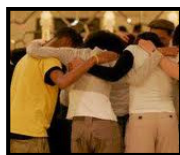
3. PROCESS DAILY LIFE THROUGH THE FREEDOM PRINCIPLES, WHICH PRODUCE CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER



Life change or becoming Christ-like is another mark of a healthy believer (1 Pet. 1:15). In order to break the sin-confession-sin cycle and experience life change, you're to confess your sins to and pray for each other (James 5:16). Each person is to ask the Spirit what He wants to change in or remove from their life; and then, lets the group know what that area is so they can pray for Jesus to change their life.

Though the goal is not to sin (1 Jn. 2:1); if you do, you're encouraged to do two things. One, seek forgiveness if you haven't already done so. And two, process your sin through the **FREE**dom principles: 1) **Free**ze frame every thought – "What was I thinking before I sinned?"; 2) **Run** those thoughts by the Spirit asking Him to **Expose** the lie you acted upon and exchange it with the truth; and 3) ask the Spirit to strengthen you to **Exercise** this truth next time by faith. This process helps you to think and then act upon God's truth, which leads to life change (Rom. 12:2) and allows you to stay focused on walking with Jesus and on fulfilling His purpose for your life (Eph. 2:10).

Everyone in the group is on the same journey to get closer to Jesus together; thus, what's shared in the group stays in the group. This mindset enables the group to be a safe place to honestly deal with the area the Spirit wants to change. There is no counseling in BIG. It's a time to listen to each other using the **FREE**dom principles to expose lies and exchange them with truths.



4. PRAY FOR EACH PERSON'S VICTORY OVER SIN AND FOR PEOPLE TO COME TO FAITH IN JESUS

Every believer is also to make healthy believers wherever they are (Matt. 28:18-20). You do this in BIG by praying regularly for each other's victory over a particular sin and when the Spirit puts those in your group on your heart (Eph. 6:18); and, by being ready to tell your Jesus story as to how God has and is changing your life wherever you go (Acts 8:26-40).

Therefore, each member of the BIG is to identify 2-3 people by first name who live close by and who the Spirit lays upon their heart to pray for their salvation. These names are then written down on every member's BIG Card and prayed for throughout the week. It's a good idea to pray for one person from the list daily.

There is a strategic prayer guide included on the reverse-side of the BIG Card to assist in this process. Also, by using your BIG Card as a Bible bookmark, you'll be reminded to pray for the salvation of those on your list.

And when they begin to seek Christ, they become good candidates for your BIG, which gets you ready to multiply into two healthy BIGs!

BIBLE IMPACT

Groups

BIBLE IMPACT GROUP

Card

DEVELOPING CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER QUESTIONS

Ask the following *Developing Christ-like Character Questions* during each BIG meeting. The purpose is to help every BIG member become more like Jesus by admitting their mistakes to each other with the attitude that each person is on a journey to be like Him. Asking these questions keeps the BIG on track and away from becoming just a fellowship time or a gab session. Each week a different person starts BIG by asking question #1. Each person then takes a turn answering the same question before moving onto the next question.

1. **Praise:** How has Jesus made Himself known to you this week? Share victories, praises and answers to prayer.
2. **Personal time with 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 **FREE**dom 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?
 - 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 not, have you asked Jesus to forgive you?
- b. Have you run through the **FREE**dom 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 our group to live victoriously this week?
5. **Pray:** Have you prayed for and taken the opportunity to be a verbal witness for Jesus this week? Have you prayed for those on your list?
6. Have you been completely honest with me?

"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 tool to help each believer get closer to Jesus by daily processing their everyday life situations through their biblically-based truth filter. As they do: lasting life change is experienced, joy, peace and love are tasted, and purpose for real living today is gained. It’s also a hands-on tool that allows every believer to make disciples/healthy believers (Matthew 28:18-20).

BIGs incorporate the **DNA** of every healthy believer (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).

BIGs are a place where believers can accept each other where they are while loving them to where the Spirit wants to take them—becoming more like Jesus. 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. 3:12-17).

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 is the only curriculum in a BIG.
- BIGs continue to learn how to process each day with a Biblical worldview by working on one area of 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 prayer was answered (**A** – worship).
 2. Personal time with the Word of God (**D**).
 3. Process daily life through the **FREE**dom principles, which produce Christ-like character (**DN**).
 4. Pray for each person’s victory over sin and for people 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 Jesus, the only One who can meet their needs and change their life (Heb. 12:1-3).
2. A willingness to *practice* living with a biblically-based truth filter 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 you, get started!

BIBLE IMPACT

Groups

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