

Devotion, Prayer & Fellowship

Bible Reading: When should I read the Bible?

Prayer: How long should I pray?

Church Community: Do I need to belong to a church?

Accountability

The Bible: Why Read it?

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. (Psalm 119:105)

Welcome

Hello! Greet each of them. Ask how they are doing. Talk about things you discussed last time or emphasize a good thing you saw today. Ask to share something interesting, a latest development in their lives.

What is your favorite book and why? Or go around the group and ask each young person to state his/her name and attach an adjective that not only describes a dominant characteristic, but also starts with the same letter of his name e.g. generous Gerimae, dynamic Dave. Write them down and refer to them by this for the rest of the time together.

Worship

Song: This is the Air I Breathe by Passion

Word

Opening: There are countless of libraries around the world. Can you imagine how many books our national library has or even in your own school library? You might spend weeks counting them all, how much more reading them all! There are many acclaimed "New York Best-Selling books", have you read one? But there is one single most important book ever written- the bible.

Many people are intimidated to read the bible, some think it is just plain history while for some, it is fiction and for others, it is living.

So why is it important to read the bible on a regular basis?

First- It is for equipping

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of

How to Use this material

1. Learn it for yourself and take its message to heart.
2. Answer the questions and reflect on them, especially on God's Word, and what it means to your personal life.
3. Share this material with the people around you. God wants to use your life, so others would come to know Christ! Feel free to share to them this material. 😊

God[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. -2 Timothy 3:16-17

There is a saying that B-I-B-L-E means Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth. I say it's true! How can an old book be still useful until today? It sounds scary when people say "read the bible" as if you're a saint! The bible is not meant to scare you. It is for good use so that you will be equipped in your everyday life.

Second- The Bible has made a big impact to the world

Did you know that the bible was the first book ever put to the printing press? Organizations and association around the world have been formed because of this book and its message. It connects us to the most important figure in history- Jesus. The Bible is the best-selling book of all time. It has been translated to numerous languages.

Why do you think so? People are hungry for truth, for freedom, for love and good news. It is said: "The Bible is the only book that you read that The Author is always present. "

It changed the world we're living in, it could help change you! Transformation happens when you get to know Him through His Word.

Third- To be successful

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Joshua 1:8

The Bible is not just a made up book so we can feel better. We find success when we successfully connect with God through His Word. It is our guide to our everyday life. That is why it is important to read it daily.

Fourth- To keep yourself from getting lost

We may wander and get lost if we don't know the way. The bible tells us which way to go. A compass so we don't get lost, bread so we don't go hungry. If we keep on leaning on our own understanding and solely base it on our decisions on what we think is right, we may get on the wrong track. Our world offers us a lot of advice to our problems: Your classmate might tell you to cheat instead of studying, or drink the whole night because of heartbreak. We can get easily get lost in this world full of "I know what do, trust me!" God's words are eternal and we need to trust Him.

With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. Psalm 119:10-11

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

Fifth- It gives us hope

Studying The Bible requires careful and prayerful attention and correct application of biblical principles. By studying God's Word, you not only enjoy the wisdom of God but also bless your family, friends by sharing them this Good News! Our world needs hope today, so share the hope you found in God's Word.

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Romans 15:4

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. Matthew 24:35

Works

Now is the time to pick up your Bible! Read it regularly. It is not cake for special occasions, it is daily bread. Read it from cover to cover. For starters, you may start reading from the book of John. For others, read more and more of it for growth. Before reading, don't forget to pray first and ask for guidance and open heart and mind.

What's stopping you from reading the bible?

What may happen if you let God's Word guide your actions and decisions?

How to Use this material

1. Learn it for yourself and take its message to heart.
2. Answer the questions and reflect on them, especially on God's Word, and what it means to your personal life.
3. Share this material with the people around you. God wants to use your life, so others would come to know Christ! Feel free to share to them this material. 😊

Prayer

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. (Colossians 4:2)

Welcome

Nice to see you again! Greet each other. Talk about things you discussed last time.

Icebreaker: You will need a great number of paperclips for this icebreaker game, so be ready. Give each teen ten (or more) paperclips when they arrive. Tell the first three they are the team leaders and cannot connect with each other. The goal is to get the teens to join their group and create the largest chain of paperclips. The team with longest chain of paperclips wins. Note: If everyone came at the same time, you may divide the group into 3 or 4 and play longest line instead.

Worship

Song: Blessed by Hillsong

Word

Opening: Prayer is like breathing, you can't live without it. Go ahead; try to hold your breath for a couple of seconds. How did you feel? We can't imagine life without breathing.

There are many times we only do a certain type of prayer: asking. One even joked that our prayers usually go like this "Lord, pahingi noon, pahingi noon!" Do we really only pray when we ask for things?

But what does it mean to really pray? Prayer is simply talking to God. We pray when we open our heart to our mighty Heavenly Father.

Why do we pray? There are so many reasons but here are some.

1. It is a privilege
2. We are in a spiritual battle
3. It makes a difference

True prayer is honest, humble and personal. When you love someone, you like talking to them. It is the same thing with God; if we truly love Him then we enjoy talking to Him again and again!

What do we need to include in our prayers? There's so much to say whenever we're praying. Here are some you should not forget.

1. Pray to recognize His plan, His will. You will be able to determine His plan if you listen to Him.
2. Pray so you can do it. Prayer accomplishes God's work. When you pray, you recognize that you cannot do it alone and that you need God's help in your life.

One of the popular methods of prayer is ACTS:

A-doration- *"Praise be to God!" -Psalms 68:35*

Tell God how much you appreciate Him. Praise His name, His power and majesty

C-onfession- *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just, and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." -1 John 1:9*

Tell Him your shortcomings and yes, you can be specific and honest. He is a fair judge. Only He can erase your sins if you confess and repent. Ask Him for strength not to be tempted again.
Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. Jeremiah 29:12

T-hanksgiving- Always *"glorify him with thanksgiving" -Psalms 69:30*

Thank Him for waking up this morning! You failed in your quiz? Thank Him for you were still able to go to school. Express your gratitude! There are so many reasons to be thankful no matter how small they are.

S-upplication- *"Make your requests known to God." -Philippians 4:6*

Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. James 5:13

Tell God what you want, no matter how small it seems to you. Do you really think any of your requests are too big for God? Do you think God is too busy to hear you? In the movie "Miracles from Heaven", the little girl prayed to have another puppy and she also prayed that she will get well from her sickness and she got answered prayers. God hears our prayers. You may never see it right away but remember that God's "no" is not a failed prayer. Maybe His answer is "not yet my son/daughter"

You will pray to him, and he will hear you, and you will fulfill your vows. Job 22:27

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours Mark 11:24

God is not a magician. He may not give you what you want but He will give you what you need. He performs miracles. He is the Great Healer and Righteous Judge.

I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer. Psalms 17:6

Works

What keeps us from connecting and communicating with God?

What do you need to do to make your prayer life better?

Use the ACTS method in praying. Think of one person you haven't prayed for before and write it in your journal/diary. Pray for that person.

A Church Like No Place Else

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. (Ephesians 2:19-22)

Welcome

I Love You Game

(Better in big group; 12-15) Gather the youth and have them sit in a chair and form a circle. Ask for a volunteer and have him/her stand in the middle of the circle. The volunteer will ask anyone he/she choose this question, "Faye, do you love me?" If the person in the middle answered NO, they are to give description of who they love without saying names: "I love those who like green", but the description must match some people in the circle.

Examples of "No": I only love those who are wearing their IDs, those who are wearing socks, who are wearing earrings, who are wearing any accessories, who are wearing a watch etc.

But if he/she will says YES, everyone will stand up and change their seat (note: they cannot jump to the seat next to theirs) The volunteer must also look for a seat so the last one to find a seat will be the next one standing in the middle. There are no winners but if there people who stood in the middle 3-4x, they could have a consequence.

Worship

Song: Shine by Matt Redman

How to Use this material

1. Learn it for yourself and take its message to heart.
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Word

Opening: What is the church?

From the New Testament meaning, we believe that a church is a body of believers or body of Christ who has been called out from the world by God to live as his people under the authority of Jesus Christ.

A local church like TFCN or GenCon is a congregation that meets together physically for corporate worship, fellowship, teaching, correction, prayer and encouragement in the faith.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25

We believe that a church exists to:

Assemble to bring people to maturity- until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:13

Reach out-Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20

More than a place, building, location nor denomination, we- God’s people who are in Christ Jesus- are the church.

Now that we already know what a church is and its purpose, do you think we can we survive apart from church? Technically, it is possible. But the more important question is, will it be helpful? It is said “No man is an island” and the same goes for Christians. These are some things that we cannot fulfill if we live in isolation from the church.

Use of Spiritual Gifts- (leader may read 1 Corinthians 12 prior to CG) *Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 1 Cor. 12:7.* It is mentioned that it is for the common good. However, if you’re alone, how could it be for the common good? Your gift is not there to merely make you feel good. It is your offering to God. Do you have a gift in teaching? Take care of kids. Our Sunday school and Manna might be needing your help! Are you hospitable and make people feel comfortable? Maybe you can be part of the ushering team! How about cleaning? I know a girl who started cleaning the church because she loves doing it and she’s good at it. Now, she has a beautiful family and together they are serving God in Canada. Do your friends run to you for advice? Do you have the patience with kids? Whatever your gift is, use it to help strengthen one another.

Church reveals Christ to the world- 1 Timothy 3:16. Jesus revealed God in human flesh. As the church, we are His body. We are the visible expression of our Savior to this world. Church doesn't always mean the building; it is actually referring more to the people of God. So church is really not somewhere to go to, it's a family we are with. It is His household and He is the Head. Some people tend to be individualistic and people inside the church may differ in a lot of opinion but it is not enough reason for us not to be part of God's church family. What unites us (Christ) is greater than what divides us!

Together we are called to be salt and light of this world. If we will not work together, how can this dark world know that there is still hope? We need one another; we need to share the wonderful experience of having Him in our lives!

Works

Have you been functioning as a part of the church? If yes, in what ways? If no, what are the things you need to do?

What are your gifts? Do you use them the way God wants to?

What hinders you from using your talents for God?

Share your faith to someone who have not gone to a church

Invite them to church and if you haven't attended a church service, now is the time 😊

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Accountability

Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?" (Genesis 4:9)

Welcome

Welcome everyone in the group. Ask how they are doing. Talk about things you discussed last time or emphasize a good thing you saw today. Ask to share something interesting, a latest development in their lives.

Worship

Song: Stronger by Delirious

Word

(Elaborate Abel and Cain's story and ask them what the moral of the story is)

Why is accountability important?

Accountability - God designed the church to be a place where a spiritual ATE or KUYA could guide, watch out for our welfare, just like a shepherd taking care of their sheep.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

- These people are not placed there to discourage you because you made too many mistakes.
- They are there to remind you that people in the church are not perfect, and yet we strive to be Christ-like.
- They are by your side to give you wise counsel, encouragement, correction, and feed you spiritual food.

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. James 5:16

Remember:

Accountability time happens anytime of the week.

- It's not suggested to always "schedule" coz it should happen freely but if you are busy, then scheduling it and managing your time is a good idea. But if you know you are too troubled, so joyful that you need to share a prayer request or if there are things you don't know how to decide on, contact your ATE or KUYA right away. It can be an FB message, text or a call that you can do right away. It is wise to get help from someone who is mature in the Lord. People can sway us with "worldly" decisions (Give examples or stories of worldly decisions shared to you) thinking they are harmless. We need to be on guard and trust God that He entrusted us with people who can help us to fulfill God's plans in your lives.
- *Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17*

We are accountable to God

- *And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Hebrews 4:13*
- *So then each of us will give an account of himself to God. Romans 14:12*
- *I tell you, on the Day of Judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." Matthew 12:36-37*

Works

Reflection (Can be shared in the group or only to the ministry leader):

How is your relationship with God right now?

Pray for someone as your accountability partner- to open up your recent struggles, difficulties etc.

Open up a recent struggle/weakness or victory with an accountability partner.