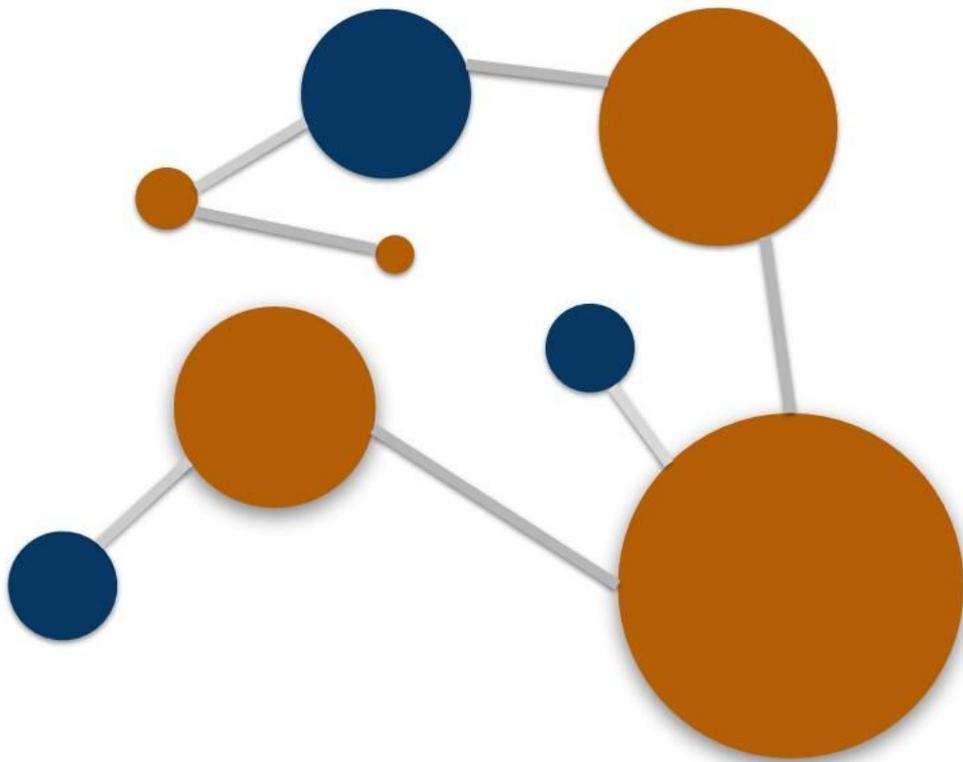


# Bible Dialogue Handbook

*“Go and Make Disciples”- Jesus*





## Welcome to the Bible Dialogue Workshop!

### Overview of Our Time

- Meet and Prayer
- Introduction
- Modeling/  
Dissecting Dialogue
- Practicing/ The  
Tool
- Lunch/Break
- Practice and  
Dialogue
- Commissioning

### What is this workshop?

This workshop is a conversation and demonstration of how the Word of God can help us create and maintain a simple and meaningful dialogue with others about Jesus

### How will this workshop equip you?

At the end of all things, we believe this workshop will give you the tools, practice, and understanding you need to feel comfortable creating your own Bible Dialogues

### What will we be doing?

We will spend some time together modeling what a Bible Dialogue looks like, addressing how we create one, giving the reasons for this tool, and practicing it together

## The Big Picture (Matthew 28:19)

### “GO”

Jesus doesn't say others will come to us but that we should GO to them



### “MAKE DISCIPLES”

Jesus doesn't tell us to make programs, plant churches, or make converts



### DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES

Jesus knew His vision to win the world couldn't be done through the 12 alone, but through multiplication: Healthy and committed disciples that make healthy committed disciples

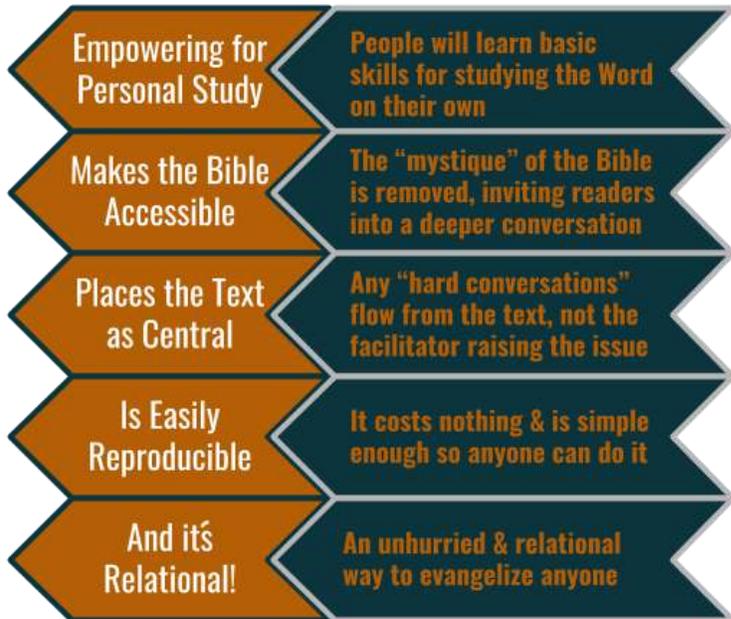
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We at NCP believe a healthy and effective way to live out the Great Commission is to disciple: (1 Non Believer + 1 New Believer + 1 Emerging Leader) until they do the same with others and multiply

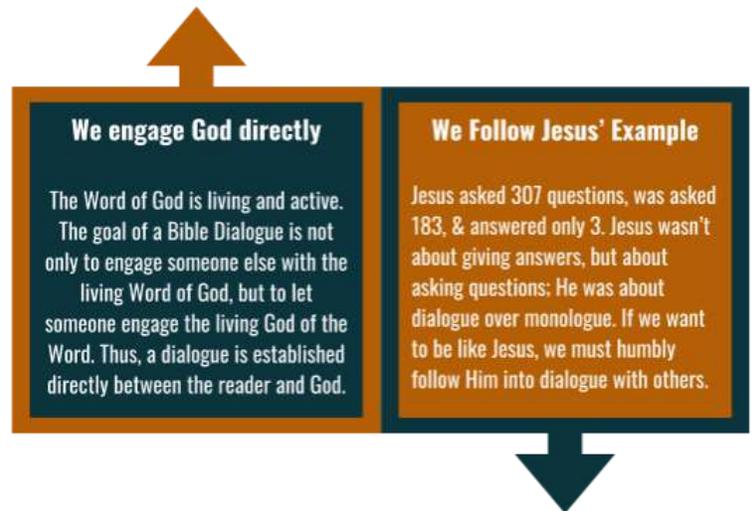
## Why Bible Dialogues?

While Bible Dialogues are an effective way to live out the big picture of the Great Commission by multiplying healthy disciples, we also believe that Bible Dialogues are a great tool for a few other reasons

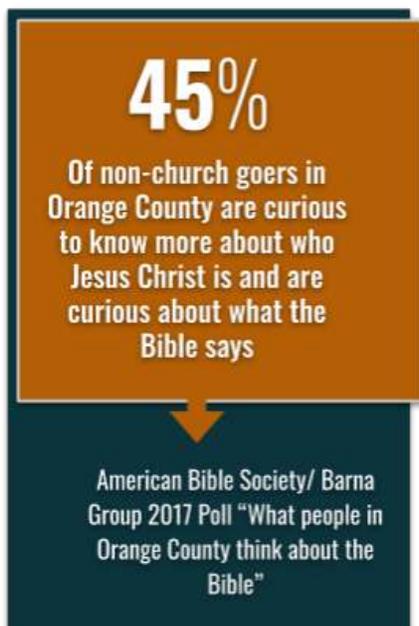
### Practically Speaking



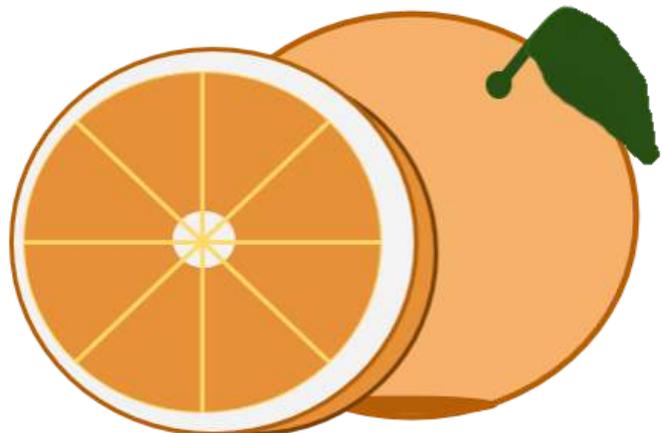
### Spiritually Speaking



### Contextually Speaking



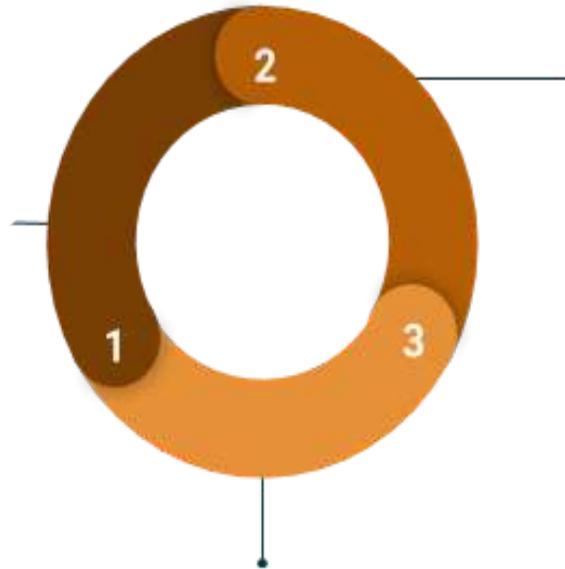
"I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest!" -Jesus (John 4:35)



## How do we Prepare?

### Pray and Read

Do this several times. Think about the context of the passage. Pray for insight. .



### Clarify

Identify key or unusual terms that are probably obscure to your participants. Refer to the map for context. If you don't know what something means, they definitely won't.

## Make Your Study Tool

What does the Bible Say?	What does it mean?	(Reading Questions) Questions to find out what it says	(Thinking Questions) Questions to find out what it means
<p><b>1. Summarize</b></p> <p>Create your own subtitles for the text</p> <p>Build the dialogue around those sections</p> <p>Explain the text in your own words</p>	<p><b>2. Analyze</b></p> <p><b>Why</b> did God include this text? What is His heart?</p> <p><b>Why</b> did people respond as they did?</p> <p>How is this text relevant to your seekers?</p>	<p><b>3. Write Questions</b></p> <p>Write open-ended questions based upon your <b>summary</b> that help people discover what the text <b>says</b></p> <p>In these last two sections you are creating questions backwards from your answers in the <i>first</i> two sections</p>	<p><b>4. Write Questions</b></p> <p>Write open-ended questions based upon your <b>analysis</b> that help people discover what the text <b>means</b></p> <p>Open-ended questions often start with "what" or "why" and never leave a person with only a "yes" or "no" option</p>

A Hint: Most of the questions in Column 3 Start with "Who, What, When, Where," or "How" Whereas most of the questions in Column 4 start with "Why". If you have trouble making Questions for Column 4, try adding a "Why" to an observation you made in Column 1

What does the Bible Say?	What does it mean?	(Reading Questions) Questions to find out what it says	(Thinking Questions) Questions to find out what it means
<p>1:1) About Jesus? The story of Jesus is good news. He is not an ordinary man, He is the Son of God</p> <p>2-8) About the ministry of John the Baptist? John's ministry is part of the gospel (good news) of Jesus—the SON OF GOD. The prophet Isaiah predicted the ministry of John, who would come as the messenger preparing the way of Jesus, the Promised Messenger.</p> <p>John called people to repentance and many responded.</p> <p>John said that Jesus was superior to him and that Jesus would not baptize with water but with the Holy Spirit.</p>	<p>Pay attention to this guy!!!!</p> <p>Jesus is not just another prophet—He is God the Son. John's ministry was not a random event. His ministry was tightly connected to Jesus' ministry and a prophetic witness to the ministry Jesus would have.</p> <p>It also means Jesus fulfilled the prophecies about the coming of the Promised One. John was more than a preacher and Jesus was more than a man.</p> <p>He was helping people to prepare their hearts for the One who would come after him.</p> <p>Jesus is more than a prophet—He is "something else"</p> <p>Jesus' ministry was superior to John's. His baptism was superior to John's.</p>	<p>1. How does verse 1 introduce JC—what do we learn about Him?</p> <p>3. What do we learn about John the Baptist and what did he say was going to happen (v. 2, 3)?</p> <p>6. In verses 4, 7 and 8, What were the key points in John's message to the people?</p> <p>9. What did He say about the one coming after him?</p>	<p>2. Why start there? What are we to do with this information?</p> <p>4. What does this suggest about John and his ministry?</p> <p>5. The Jews had waited centuries for this prophecy to be fulfilled—how do you think they felt when they saw this happening? What does the passage seem to indicate?</p> <p>7. What is repentance? How is it different from remorse?</p> <p>8. How do you think repentance prepared people for the arrival of Jesus?</p> <p>10. What or who could be mightier than a prophet???</p> <p>11. What do we learn about the Baptism of Jesus compared to John?</p> <p>12. What special power does it take to baptize a person in water? What about to baptize them in the Holy Spirit?</p>

## What does the Bible Say?

## What does it mean?

### (Reading Questions) Questions to find out what it says

### (Thinking Questions) Questions to find out what it means

(1:9-13) About the Transition of Ministry from John to Jesus?

(9 – 12) Jesus shows up!!!

He joins the crowd in baptism. But with nothing to repent of. When he finishes, the Father declares Him and the Holy Spirit reveals Him and rests on Him.

(13) Afterward, the Holy Spirit immediately sends JC into the desert to set Himself apart (for preparation?) and to face Satan. The angels of God minister to Him.

John's baptism was the work of a man but Jesus' baptism was the work of God.

Jesus is superior to US. He does not need to repent. He chooses to identify with us and in doing so is "commissioned" by the Father

Jesus demonstrates His authority over Satan—perhaps we could even say the angels (they serve HIM).

The message of Jesus was superior to John's—He calls people to repent and BELIEVE.

In His preaching He encounters Andrew and Peter working and invites them to follow Him and become fishers of men. They leave their work and follow Him

When James and John hear his invitation they leave their father and workers and follow Jesus as well.

Just as Jesus is superior to John, His baptism is superior to John's baptism and His message is superior to John's message; just as he is superior to Satan and even the angels, He now is seen to be superior to work and even family and friends. Mark is making it clear that Jesus stands over and above all of them and they recognize it. He must be the Son of God!

1. What happened when Jesus and John the Baptist met?

2. What is the meaning of the conversation between them? Between Jesus and God the Father and the Holy Spirit?

4. What was the first thing that happened after Jesus began his ministry (v. 13)? What was the result of their encounter?

3. Why would Jesus ask for baptism if He was without sin? How does your answer make you feel about Him?

6. In v. 15, what does Jesus add to the content of John's message?

5. Who or what is the good news again?

8. Who does Jesus meet in Capernaum? What happens when Jesus invites them to join Him?

7. What does this suggest about the message of Jesus versus that of John the Baptist?

9. To what is Jesus demonstrating His superiority in these calls He makes in verses 17 and 20?

**APPLICATION:** If Jesus is truly superior to John the Baptist, his baptism, his message, to us, to Satan, to the angels, to work, to family and to friends, What should this mean for us?

What does the Bible Say?	What does it mean?	(Reading Questions) Questions to find out what it says	(Thinking Questions) Questions to find out what it means
<p>Jesus and other Authorities (21-34)</p> <p>Ministry of Jesus (35-39)</p> <p>Jesus and His encounter with a leper (40-45)</p>			

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What does the Bible Say?

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## FAQ

### Who do I invite into a dialogue?

Friends, Family, Co-Workers, Fellow Christians. Bible Dialogues are for ANYONE and God has placed them around you and you around them for a purpose.

### How do I invite people into these dialogues?

Would you be interested in investigating what the Bible says about Jesus? If they say “no” say “okay, no worries” and keep on keeping on.

### What happens if someone asks a question I can't answer?

Firstly be honest. Tell them you don't know the answer. Secondly, if they are really interested in finding an answer encourage them to do some digging and research of their own. Perhaps point them to resources or websites. Answering questions isn't bad but be aware that some will see you as “the teacher” if YOU do all the research. In some cases, ask them if they would like to research the answer *with* you so that both of you can come together and talk about it some more.

### What do I do if no one is talking?

Don't panic, silence is often good. People need on average 12 seconds to think about a question before they answer it. If things get quiet way too long, try rephrasing the question or asking a new one.

### What do I do if someone asks a random or extraneous question?

If someone asks a random question that is bound to derail or rabbit trail the conversation simply say “that's a great question, why don't we come back to that at the end of the dialogue.”

### What do I do if someone asks a penetrating question not related to the text?

Here is where you use discernment. It may mean postponing the study, suggesting you address it after the study, or setting up another time to meet.

### What if someone gets aggressive or in your face?

Honestly, this hardly and rarely ever happens. However, if this becomes a reality be calm and gentle and don't take it personally. Don't pour fuel on the fire by debating or arguing, instead be gentle and remind them that a dialogue requires respect both ways.



“I don't know” is a good answer

Be honest, doing so earns trust and keeps you from being the teacher.

It also keeps you from distorting the truth.



Affirm whenever possible

Give eye contact and nod your head when they get it.

Follow up with another question if they engage well on the first.



Never say “no” if you can help it, instead try

“Read it again”  
“What are some other thoughts?”  
“What else do you see?”



Ask engaging questions

Ask questions that pertain to their interests and ability.

Think soft pitches, not curve balls.



Go at their pace, it's a journey not a race

Stop and smell the flowers that interest them, but don't dissect everything.

Keep moving and expect new insights!

## What Makes an Effective Bible Dialogue?

### Partnership

We have found that having someone to partner with can lead to an effective Bible Dialogue. In a partnership there will be better clarity and insight, as well as more prayer and perspective to fuel a consistently engaging dialogue.

### Prayer

Prayer is the most important ingredient in every Bible Dialogue. In prayer we surrender our agendas and let God carry out His will as we invite Him to lead our time. Remember, this is a spiritual war that cannot be fought with weapons of the earth.

### Trust

Two-way trust makes a Bible Dialogue effective. We give space to be honest about spiritual matters. We also entrust others with being honest about what the text says. We do not control the dialogue. We are learners and servants, not debaters or teachers.

### Understanding

Who are you studying with? What are they like? What engages them? An effective Bible Dialogue occurs when we are attentive to others. We must also keep in mind that some won't be Christians and therefore will not share our convictions or perspectives.

### Preparation

While God uses even poorly prepared efforts, this is no excuse not to prepare. Know the text and spend time with it in prayer. Good questions are the fruit of much study and we think an effective Bible Dialogue is the fruit of much preparation.

## Preparation with Others in Mind

When you are studying with disenfranchised folk who are accustomed to being treated as ignorant and unschooled or others who don't feel like church is "safe" you can take "right/wrong answers" out of the context and create an atmosphere of give and take that still opens the text for a hearing by asking some of the following questions

1

Questions after reading text through x1

- What did you like?
- What didn't you like?

2

Questions after reading text through x2

- What did you learn about God?
- What didn't you understand?

3

Questions after reading text through x3

- What would it look like if you applied what we learned today in your life/community?
- Who can you share what you learned with?

You can also use these questions to dislodge any conversational silences that may occur in any type of group.

## Bible Dialogue Queries

From time to time it is important to evaluate how the Bible Dialogue is going and to see the part that you have been playing in it. Below are a list of queries designed for your reflection.

### Dialogue or Monologue?

- Am I answering my own questions *or* allowing the group enough time to think on what I have asked (rephrasing when necessary)?
- Am I answering others' questions *or* am I opening up questions for the rest of the group?
- Am I appealing to other places in the Bible to help understand the text in question *or* am I asking what others think and directing them back to the original text?
- Am I modeling active listening and reflection *or* am I interrupting, waiting to make a point?

### Preparation or Improvisation?

- Have I been spending time studying the passage and praying beforehand to have a firm grasp of the passage and *God's* leading, *or* am I showing up, counting on *my* knowledge and where I want to go?
- Did I take time to think about where this passage may bring up areas of confusion, objection, or opportunity for the group?
- Am I dependent on the Holy Spirit during the group time and was I comfortable leading (why or why not)?
- Was the group prepared and sensitive to the arranged meeting time (arrival and end)?

### Engagement or Incagement

- Are others comfortable with the meeting place, each other, and being vulnerable about their faith journey and questions?
- Are most comments and controversies taken care of by the facilitator, *or* is there a corporate responsibility for those types of conversations?
- Are active listening, reflection, and affirmation more commonplace than interrupting and domineering?
- Did the discussion get rabbit trailed *or* was it kept on track with equal participation?

Overall what can you do to lead ever better next time and what can be done to increase healthy group dialogue?

## Last Reminders

God's scoreboard is **faithfulness**, *not* **fruitfulness** so don't be discouraged if nothing seems to be "clicking," especially when you are prepared.

Lastly, don't forego relationships for the study material, relationships are so so important. Take time to connect with one another every time.