

READ THIS WAY

UNDERSTANDING
AND ENJOYING
THE BIBLE

...the Lord's instruction, and he meditates on it day and night. He is like a tree planted beside flowing streams that bears its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. The wicked are not like this; instead, they are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore they will not stand up in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the Lord watches

GUIDES TO GROUP DISCUSSIONS



According to research, people who regularly read the Bible are filled with more joy and worry less. Reading the Bible feels overwhelming to many. Where to begin? What are the best ways to engage the Scriptures? Join us for our new teaching series, *Read This Way*, and learn how to confidently read and enjoy the Bible.

SOME THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

Remember that you aren't in this alone! God will help you prepare and lead your group discussion. Make it your goal to keep in step with the Holy Spirit!

Pray and read the passage a few times on your own. Take a few minutes to identify what makes an impression on you and how the passage might impact your group.

Once you've taken some time to read the passage on your own, read through the entire Discussion Guide. Make sure you understand the Main Point. Identify which questions you want to use in your group time and rewrite them in your own words.

Once your group time is over, take a few minutes to evaluate the discussion. What went well? What could have been different? If you had a "bad night," DON'T GIVE UP! Everyone has tough nights. There were times when even the disciples didn't get what Jesus was talking about!

**FREE
RESOURCES**

To equip you as a leader, we provide resources each series to help you and members of your group understand and respond to the biblical truths we're studying as a church. Don't forget about the Mariners Annual Read and the [Gospel Every Day](#) podcast discussing each devotional.

The CSB Study Bible is an excellent resource if you'd prefer a physical copy of the translation used by Mariners Church. It is available for purchase online and in the [bookstore](#) at Irvine.

All Scripture references in this guide are CSB unless otherwise noted.

HOW TO USE THE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

MAIN POINT

Discussions often take on a life of their own, but they typically lack power when they lack focus. The Discussion Leader ought to use the Main Point to keep everyone on the same page. To do this, you might say something like, "That is very interesting and a good topic for another discussion, but today's study is about..." and ask a question that brings people back to the topic of discussion. There will be times when it makes sense to ignore the Main Point—for example, when someone in your group experiences a significant crisis. If you decide to move away from the lesson's Main Point, you want to do so on purpose and not by accident.

**RHYTHM
REMINDERS**

A prompt will be provided when one of the 7 Rhythms of Rooted has a natural point of emphasis. We want to help everyone continue to grow holistically in their spiritual journeys. Obviously, some rhythms always exist, like prayer, but occasionally it will be helpful to draw fresh attention to or spend additional time in one of the rhythms.

LEADER NOTES

Where needed, each lesson may have several Leader Notes. This material will provide insight on how to steer the conversation and care for your people. Additionally, these notes will provide greater context to help you understand a difficult word, phrase, or verse.

**LEAN IN
BREAK THE ICE**

These questions will help kick-start your discussion time. The main goal for this time is to get everyone talking and prepare them for the more focused conversation to follow.

**LOOK DOWN
LOOK AT GOD'S
WORD**

The goal for this section is to let the passage speak for itself and stand on its own. This isn't easy! During this time, you will read the passage out loud (twice) and answer questions focused on the details of the biblical text.

**LOOK OUT
IDENTIFY THE
RELEVANCE OF
GOD'S WORD IN
THE WORLD**

Jesus calls us to love others, just as He loved us. Based on your understanding of the text and how God is transforming your heart, how will you treat others? How will you apply this teaching to all of your relationships and to everyone you will see this week and beyond?

**LOOK IN
APPLY GOD'S
WORD**

Transformation comes from renewing your mind (Romans 12:2). The goal for this section is to look inward to allow God's Word to change you from the inside out. Use this time to discuss how your thoughts and feelings are affirmed and/or challenged.

Be sure to close your time together in prayer. You can take requests from the group, invite others to lead, and bring God the needs that stood out to you in your group time.

WEEK 1: READ WITH DEFIANCE AND DELIGHT

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

PREPARE

Listen and subscribe to the Mariners Life Group Leader Podcast.

If you missed the weekend message or want to review specific points, you can always watch, listen, and find bulletin notes online at marinerschurch.org/messages.

MAIN POINT

Many people topple when storms expose shallow or unhealthy roots. We don't want to be like a toppled tree though; we want to be rooted and fruitful. Psalm 1 gives us a vision of a fruitful and enduring life—not like chaff blown away by the wind. To stand strong in a shaky world, we must defy worldly wisdom and delight in God's wisdom. The way to walk the path of the righteous is to delight in God's Word. To walk this way, His way, you must read this way.

LEAN IN BREAK THE ICE

What are some things that bring you happiness at the end of a long or difficult day?

LOOK DOWN LOOK AT GOD'S WORD

Read Psalm 1

1 How happy is the one who does not
walk in the advice of the wicked
or stand in the pathway with sinners
or sit in the company of mockers!

2 Instead, his delight is in the LORD's instruction,
and he meditates on it day and night.

3 He is like a tree planted beside flowing streams
that bears its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.

Whatever he does prospers.

4 The wicked are not like this;
instead, they are like chaff that the wind blows away.
5 Therefore the wicked will not stand up in the judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
6 For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked leads to ruin.

In Psalm 1, to what does the psalmist compare the “way of the righteous”? To what does he compare the “way of the wicked”?

In verse one, how does the psalmist describe the one who avoids the way of the wicked and delights in the Lord’s instruction?

In Psalm 1:6, the psalmist says that the way of the wicked leads to what?

LOOK OUT
IDENTIFY THE
RELEVANCE OF
GOD’S WORD IN
THE WORLD

**In Psalm 1:6, the psalmist writes: “For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to ruin.”
What might that look like in everyday life today?**

The psalmist says that the person who delights in God’s Word is “happy.” A lot of people see the Bible as boring and hard to understand. Practically, how could reading and delighting in the Bible bring happiness?

What does it look like for the “wicked” to be “like chaff that the wind blows away”?

**LOOK IN
APPLY GOD’S
WORD TO YOUR
LIFE**

Do you find it easy or difficult to enjoy God’s Word and find meaning in it? What makes it easy or difficult for you?

As you try to walk “the way of the righteous”—however imperfect you may be—how have you felt God watching over you as you try to live faithfully?

How might you be “like a tree planted beside flowing streams that bears its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither”? What does that even look like?