

Bible Study With Others

When we think about studying the Bible, many of us think of an activity that we do in isolation: just me, my Bible and God. The truth is that, for hundreds of years, lack of education prevented most people from reading the Bible on their own. Up until the advent of the printing press, the only way to hear and study Scripture was in the presence of others. Much has changed in our access to the words of Scripture. Yet, in our age of pervasive individualism, we need to consider the benefits of gathering together with others to study the Bible.

There are two primary benefits of studying the Bible with others.

- 1) We get to hear and consider the perspectives that others have on Scripture. We each bring our own knowledge, assumptions and life experiences to the study of Scripture, which limits what we're able to see and consider about the Bible. When we listen to others reflect on their understanding of a passage, we add another's insights to our own. Of course, we don't have to agree with how others understand or interpret Scripture, but we are made stronger in our convictions when we grapple with other perspectives. If we do happen to agree with others, we can add their perspectives and insights to our own, which helps us grow.
- 2) A second benefit to studying the Bible with others is that we are able to verbally process our perspectives on Scripture and receive feedback from others about them. Processing our learning with others has been proven to be one of the most effective ways to internalize our learning. Additionally, as we share, our own perspectives may be affirmed or challenged. In either case, something unique happens that simply does not happen when we study Scripture alone.

There are many other benefits of studying the Bible with others that are obvious, including the relational deepening that takes place.

The Bible study methods for group study are just as numerous as those for individual study. In fact, all of the other Bible study methods that are presented for The Growth Plan can be used in group study.

Northview hosts several group Bible study options, including Men's and Women's Bible Studies and Men's and Women's SOAP studies. To see the options at your campus, visit northviewchurch.us/resources/biblestudies

DiscipleSquared—a 10-week study developed for Northview Church—is also a great Bible study option for one-on-one or group study. DiscipleSquared books are available at the Information Desk at each Northview Campus.