



Bible Study

Rather than expect one person to be an expert in reading the Bible, we believe the Holy Spirit guides each of us to understand the scriptures together. To that end, this Bible study is designed so that small groups of 3-5 people will prayerfully listen to and discuss the passage. The passage will be read a total of three times by a different person in the group. A focusing question has been provided to guide the conversation after each reading. When the reader has finished allow a few moments for silent reflection. The facilitator of the group will invite someone to share their thoughts related to the question and passage of scripture. That person will invite another in the group to share. Each person can “pass for now,” meaning they are still reflecting on the question; or they may “pass,” meaning they do not wish to share. In settings where there is more than one group, a time should be provided for each group to share a summary of their conversations with everyone.

Matthew 18:15-17

If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to the, tell it to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.

Discussion Questions

After first reading: *What word, phrase, or image stands out to you?*

After second reading: *What is the goal of these layers of conversation? When have you witnessed this model of reconciliation at work in your faith community?*

After third reading: *What are you invited to do, be, or change through this passage?*

