

NEW TESTAMENT

VERSES

*devotional*

*notes*

Chapter

OLD TESTAMENT

# Relational Bible Study Series

BIBLE STUDY GUIDES FOR SMALL GROUPS

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# RELATIONAL BIBLE STUDIES

## WHAT ARE THEY?

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A tool of “Scripture prompts” a small group uses to depend on the active presence of the Holy Spirit to communicate to them, and then lives by the Holy Spirit’s message(s).

## 7 STEPS

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### 1. Invite the Holy Spirit to guide the group study.

This completely depends on the Holy Spirit. Otherwise, it’s just a chat session, a friendly gathering, or an instructional seminar. It is not dependent on a skilled leader or Bible scholar or super saint. The Holy Spirit can speak through anyone in the group.

- *What do you think of Step 1?*

### 2. Use an opening question that will “level the playing field.”

An opening question introduces the topic, but more importantly, the question doesn’t make one person in the group more of an expert than anyone else—no totem pole positioning. For example, instead of asking, “How often do you read the Bible?” ask, “Would you prefer to read the Bible at the start or the end of the day?”

- *What do you think of Step 2?*

### 3. Read the passage of Scripture.

Read this aloud. Go around the circle and read a paragraph or so—a few verses. Take turns until you have finished the passage. The Holy Spirit is the crucial presence that connects you and your small group to God through the Bible—God’s Word. The same Holy Spirit that inspired Bible writers years ago is essential to inspire your reading now.

- *What do you think of Step 3?*

**4. Take some time to answer the Bible prompts individually.**

After reading the Bible passage, spend some time reflecting by using the Bible prompts. Mark your responses individually. You might choose more than one answer. After individual reflection (5-10 minutes), you're ready for small group discussion since you've thought about it some and listened for impressions from the Holy Spirit.

- *What do you think of Step 4?*

**5. Discuss some of the questions with the group.**

You can begin with the first question or any of the others. Ask for people to give their responses. The questions are geared for more than one possible response rather than a true/false quiz. The questions move from the passage of Scripture toward personal application. Take turns. After one person gives input, invite others to give theirs as well. When discussion ceases, move to another Scripture prompt.

- *What do you think of Step 5?*

**6. Identify what the Holy Spirit's message is for you right now.**

Be sensitive to what God is communicating to you throughout this experience. It might have come during the opening prayer, the reading of Scripture, your individual responses to the prompts, or during the discussion. What is the Holy Spirit's message to you right now, and how can you live it out this week? Share with the group what the Holy Spirit's message is for you. This might be different for each person in the group.

- *What do you think of Step 6?*

**7. Close with a time of prayer.**

Pray for one another in the group, asking for the Holy Spirit to continue with each person as they seek to live out this week the message they received. Add whatever other prayer messages you'd like. Go around the circle or use conversational prayer. Encourage participants to continue in silent prayer when there are moments in which no one is praying out loud. Close with a hearty, "Amen."

- *What do you think of Step 7?*