

For more information about leading evangelistic Bible studies see:

- <http://evangelism.intervarsity.org/how/gigs>
- Rebecca Manley Pippert, *How to Lead a Seeker Bible Discussion* (IVP, 2003)
- John Teter, *Get the Word Out* (IVP, 2003)

COME TO THE PARTY

Evangelistic Bible Study Guide

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Looking directly at stories about Jesus is one of the best ways for our not-yet Christian friends to “come to the party” for themselves. Invite your friends to have a **look at a passage from the Bible and an open discussion.**

The goal of an evangelistic Bible study is to create a place where not-yet Christians can see Jesus in a new way and respond to him. Ask your pastor or campus staff worker for coaching and prayer support.

The process of READ & DISCUSS, SHARE & INVITE, PRAY & WATCH works well with any story in the Gospels. Try it with:

- Luke 5:1-11 Messed-up by Jesus
- Luke 5:17-26 CSI: Capernaum
- Luke 15:1-10 Celebrate with me
- Luke 15:11-32 Come Home...
- Luke 19:1-10 Diary of a Short Tax Collector

**A note about this guide – Instructions for the leaders are in italics. Specific questions to use during the study are in regular print.*

READ & DISCUSS:

- *Read the biblical story out loud.*
- *Give a few minutes of quiet for each person to read the story again on their own and note things that are interesting or confusing.*
- *Ask open ended questions that keep the conversation focused on the biblical story.*
 - What do you notice about Jesus and how he interacts with people? What impresses you about him?
 - Which of the characters do you find most interesting? Why?
 - What do you find surprising or troubling?
 - What does the story communicate about God?
- *Let the Scripture speak for itself and don't worry about coming to agreement or answering all your friends' questions.*

SHARE & INVITE:

- *Share a story of how Jesus has been real to you. To prepare, ask the Holy Spirit to show you what part of your story your friend needs to hear. Consider:*
 - *What character in the biblical story do you identify with? Why?*
 - *How has Jesus touched your life and brought healing?*
 - *How has Jesus answered your questions or resolved your doubts?*
- *Do you relate to my story or to one of the characters in the biblical story?*
- *Ask them to pick a need, struggle, or situation in their life that they can invite Jesus to interact with. (E.g. Is there a place in your life where you've worked hard, but haven't gotten the results you are hoping for? What would it be like to invite Jesus into that area?)*
- *What do you think Jesus might want you to do?*

PRAY & WATCH:

- *I realize it might be new to you to talk to Jesus directly, but let's ask him to interact with your life as he did in the scripture story. Give your friend the option to pray out loud or silently.*
- *Finish by praying out loud in a natural way for the areas shared.*
- *Trust God to get involved in your friend's life. Remember, Jesus is always seeking the lost.*
- *In a few days, ask them how Jesus responded to your prayers.*
- *As you see God speaking to your friend, take a risk to invite them to become a follower of Jesus. (E.g. It looks like Jesus is inviting you to join his party. Would you like to say yes to following him?)*
- *A great resource for new believers is: launch.intervarsity.org*