



# SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

WEEK: 4

## GOAL OF TONIGHT

Help students see how God's story intersects with their story and why that matters in their day-to-day life.

## WELCOME & ICE BREAKER

Hey friends! Welcome back after MEA break. Tonight we're going to start with a little bottle flip challenge. The person who can flip the bottle and land it in the least amount of time wins. (Leaders, you'll have to time this - or feel free to play a different way that would make more sense for your group).

## BIBLE VERSES

James 1:1

## QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS THE BIBLE VERSES

Tonight we are starting a two week study on the topic, "How to read the Bible." Begin by asking these questions to get an idea of where your students are at.

1. How many of you have a Bible at home that you call your own? When/from whom did you get it?
2. Do you read it at home? How often? (no judgment here, just asking!)

Explain that many people don't know where to start when it comes to reading the Bible. It's a huge book and it can be difficult to understand. Tonight, let's go over a few details that will help you understand the Bible better so you can begin reading it at home (or continue reading it at home).

1. The Bible is made up of 66 individual books. (show them the table of contents). 39 in what we call the Old Testament and 27 in New Testament. Does anyone know the difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament? (explain at the Old Testament is the story of God BEFORE Jesus and the New Testament is the story of God AFTER Jesus came to earth).
2. What book of the Bible (looking at the table of contents) would be a good place to start reading? (all suggestions are good suggestions here -but then give some of your favorite books that might be good to start with. Here are a few that we would suggest: Mark (the story of Jesus, pretty short), James (very practical advice), Genesis (the beginning is always a good place to start), Psalms (poems that will help you connect with God).
3. Open to the book of James and explain that when we read a book of the Bible we should try to learn who wrote the book and who the author is writing to. Try this: read James 1 and see who wrote it and who it was written to.
4. Who is James and who are the 12 tribes? (to find out this information, you can read in a study Bible OR just google it.) James is the brother of Jesus, a leader in the church in Jerusalem and the 12 tribes is a reference to Jewish Christians living all over.

Now you are ready to start reading! Let's make a goal to read chapter 1 before next week, so we can discuss it.

## LEADER INSIGHT

Leaders - this small group guide does include a little teaching - thanks for doing this. You are laying a foundation that will help these students read the Bible for their whole lives! You may want to take some time to read about the book of James in a study Bible or online commentary before you lead through this guide. It will help give you even more context you could share!

## APPLICATION SUGGESTIONS

If students don't have Bibles at home, help them download the YouVersion Bible app on their phone, or get them a copy of the New Testament from your Pastor or Student Ministries.