

Philosophy of Discipleship & Bible Reading With the Saints

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At Christ Fellowship Bible Church, we do not have a long list of “ministries” that someone can choose from to find their niche in the Church. Rather, our philosophy that we have adopted as a local church consists in the regular, intentional and purposeful meeting together with one another to read the Word of God, to study it together, to pray over it, and make specific applications from it. We view the discipleship opportunities as *people* work more than *programmatic* work. We try to emphasize building the *vines* of people rather than the *trellises* of programs that support the vines. Our desire is to see the members of CFBC meeting together with other saints studying the Bible, reading it together, and applying it specifically to life. We firmly believe that the Bible is God’s breathed-out Word, it is wholly sufficient, and profitable for life and godliness. We also believe the Bible is authoritative, powerful, life-transforming, convicting, and able to be understood and interpreted by the illumination of the Holy Spirit through consistent hermeneutics. Thus, we encourage the saints to live out Colossians 3:15-16, to let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly ... teaching and admonishing one another.

Why do we encourage one-to-one (or, small group) Bible reading, discipleship, relationships in the local church? Here are 13 reasons.

1. It provides regular seasons of encouragement with other believers on a weekly basis.
2. It stimulates thinking as believers work together to interpret and apply a text.
3. It models for each other the importance and benefit of reading with others so you can implement it in your home (with a spouse, children, etc.)
4. It creates a comfortability in the heart so that you can find another believer and initiate a Bible-reading discipleship relationship with them.
5. It enhances thanksgiving as you pray together and share how God has answered prayers.
6. It guards you from being led astray by the deceitfulness of sin.
7. It proves to be a wonderful way to welcome those visiting your church with opportunities during the week to get together with other believers informally and to study the Word together.
8. It brings the preeminence of Jesus Christ to the heart of the conversation as each text leads ultimately to Him and to His saving work.
9. It permits the Spirit of God to comfort the heart, to convict the conscience, and to affect the will as the living and inspired Word of God is read and discussed.
10. It fulfills in part the Great Commission as true, baptized disciples are taught to obey all that Christ has commanded as they remember that He is with them even till the end of the age.
11. It presents to those who may be watching nearby (e.g., in a coffee shop, a restaurant, a park, etc.) how important the Word of God open, read, discussed and cherished is to true Christians.
12. It obeys the command in Colossians 3 to let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with the wisdom of Scripture.
13. It glorifies God and delights in His revelation as His people read His Word and hear Him speak! When God speaks through the reading of His Word, he receives glory!