

## How to Get Into a Bible Study

Written by Rob L. Whitacre

We know we must “go” and “teach the Gospel” to every creature (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15). Over the years great and wonderful tools have been written to help conduct Bible studies (*The Jewell Miller Film Strips, John Hurt Series, Back to the Bible, Fishers of Men, Evangelism Made Simple, The Open Bible Study, Circles of Truth*, etc...). The dilemma for many Christians lies within how to get into a Bible study. There is no magic formula, gimmick, or gadget that will answer this question. It is a rare occurrence when you meet a complete stranger who agrees to study the Bible. I am certainly not dismissing these random meetings, but I am just stating the obvious. During the last 20 years, a majority of our Bible studies have budded from relationships.

Shortly after the establishment of the church on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2), a rapid growth occurred that filled the whole world with the message of Christ. In Acts 2:41, there were 3,000 souls. In Acts 4:5, there were 5,000 men. In Acts 5, Luke records, “*And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women*” (14). What enabled such growth? The Bible says, “*Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved*” (Acts 2:47). Many preachers focus on the word “added,” and rightly so. Knowing that our denominational friends believe you can join a church, we constantly remind our audience that the Lord “adds” those being saved to His church. But perhaps we have overlooked another very important teaching. Luke also says the church enjoyed “*favour with all the people.*” According to Vines, the word means “*grace on the part of the giver, kindness...acceptable.*” Brethren, everyone wants to be accepted, and who doesn’t love kindness?

Most Bible studies occur because you have developed a relationship and secured the “favour” of the prospect. It is the ultimate form of selflessness to love your neighbor as yourself. John Maxwell wrote, “*People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.*” No one knew this better than our Lord. Luke says, “*And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man*” (2:52). Jesus was is the Master Personal Evangelist. His ability to gain the favor of His fellow man was a key to his success.

In our world of fast food kitchens and drive-through windows, we rarely take time to secure the “*favour*” of others. Basic communication skills are being lost to texting and instant messaging. Our social groups have been reduced to Facebook and Twitter. Perhaps there has never been a society with a greater thirst for “*favor*” than ours. God created man as a social being. The Bible states, “*And the LORD God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone...'*” (Genesis 2:18). Many are longing to find that first century “*favour*” from churches today, but sadly, in too many places, it is just not there. Could it be that the lack of Bible studies by Christians today is linked to a lack of “*favour*?”

### Serving AM & PM today and next Sunday AM:

Sunday Rotation	December 3, 2023 AM	December 3, 2023 PM	December 10, 2023 AM
Greeter	Dustin Desarro	Rick Ferris	Brandon Fourman
Announcements	Jason Bang	Jerry Thompson	Tim Bang
Song Leading	John McGiffin	Duane Kemp	Duane Kemp
Opening Prayer/Usher Left	Seth Arrell	Tim Bang	Jerry Thompson
Lord's Supper Comments	Jerry Thompson	Jason Bang	Tom Muter
Scripture Reading	Duane Kemp	Brandon Fourman	Rick Ferris
Sermon	John McGiffin	John McGiffin	John McGiffin
Closing Prayer/Usher Right	Tom Muter	Judah Gasper	Jason Bnag

## Things you should know about...

We are sending donations to the Disaster Relief Fund quarterly. If you’d like to contribute, mark it as “DRF” or give the money to Jason. The next donation will be sent after the end of December.

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Carrie Thompson 12/5	Jennifer Garren 12/9	Jerry Thompson 12/18
David Glenn 12/8	Dan Metcalf 12/10	Rena Morgan 12/24
Alena Brown 12/9	Dustin Desarro 12/11	

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## Happy Anniversary! Duane & Carol Kemp 12/24

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Ladies Bible Study - The Crown  
THIS Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm

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Congregation Holiday Party  
THIS Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm

We will be having a baked potato bar/salad bar with all the fixin's. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Also, be looking for your best white elephant gift for our annual gift exchange. There will be a gift exchange game and activities for the kids.

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Men’s meeting after AM services on December 17th

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Holiday gifts/food baskets handed out - December 17th

A list of gifts requested/needed for each family is on the back table, in addition to the food items still needed. Please have wrapped gifts brought to the building by Wednesday, December 13th and food items on Sunday morning, December 17th. Thank you for having giving hearts!!

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**This week's Bible Verse**

“And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.” Acts 5:42



**Remember in Prayer:**

- \*Our Country & leaders
- \*Bible Studies currently being held
- \*Phyllis Caldwell - encouragement
- \*Rena Morgan - Shut in, health
- \*Ernst & Helen Sherrill (Bro/Sis in Christ from TN) - shut ins with ongoing health issues
- \*Larry Bey - dealing with Parkinson's
- \*Maxine Jones (Laura McGiffin's mom) - dementia and health issues
- \*Debby Braefield (Alena Brown's Aunt) - health
- \*Terry McGiffin (John McGiffin's dad) - health & comfort, also keep Doreen in prayer
- \*Luanne Listner (wife of Tim Bang's friend, Jim) - health
- \*Orville Thompson (Jerry Thompson's dad) - health
- \*Lynn Thompson - health
- \*Karen Oyler (Stephanie Bang's friend) - having chemo treatments
- \*Christina Gillard (friend of the Ferris') - recovering from surgery

- \*Royce Seiber (Doug Seiber's brother) - recovering from surgery
- \*Stan Wendt - recent visitor, moving to the area
- \*Pamela Illinick - Stage 4 Kidney failure
- \*Kecia Carney and Kacie Anderson (friends of Carla Patrick) - grieving the loss of their husband/father
- \*Alexis Edge (Stephanie Bang's 2nd cousin) -15 yr old coping with/healing of anorexia
- \*Amanda Cummings (food basket family) - struggling financially and mental/physical/health
- \*George Gaynor's mother - health
- \*Carl & Abby Daniels (family of Laura McGiffin) - aging/health
- \*Connie Foght (friend of Kemp's) - recently lost her husband and mother
- \*Connie Able (sister in Christ from Columbus area) - cancer, in hospital

**How can we be praying for YOU?**

Please call or email John (jmcgiffin.yayo@gmail.com) with any prayer requests or announcements you have for the congregation.



**Attendance and Contribution Record**

Sunday, November 26		Wednesday, November 29	
Bible Classes	25	Bible Classes	26
AM Attendance	27		
PM Attendance	24	Contribution	\$1,608.00



**GREENVILLE CHURCH of CHRIST**  
CHRIST CENTERED. BIBLE BASED. FAMILY ORIENTED.

**December 3, 2023**

**Worship Times:**

Sunday Morning Bible class: 9:30am

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30am

Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00pm

Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7:00pm

Minister, John McGiffin

4599 Children's Home Bradford Rd

Greenville, OH 45331

www.greenvillecoc.org

We are blessed that you have chosen to worship with us. If you are visiting, we would love to have you back with us again. Please take a moment to fill out a visitor's card and let us get to know you.