

ROB ONEKEA

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations
baptizing them in the name of the Father*

52

Bible Talks

FOR ALL SEASONS

SAMPLE

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*52 Bible Talks
For All Seasons*

by Rob Onekea

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52 Bible Talks For All Seasons
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Thank you to my God,
my incredible wife Burgandie,
and my children,
Derion, Dena, and Brandon.

INTRODUCTION

A church's Bible Talks are one of the most integral parts of evangelizing the world, making the effectiveness of the discussions paramount to winning this world for Jesus. An effective Bible Talk Leader creates a comfortable and welcoming environment for people of all ages, races, and socio-economic backgrounds. The ambience of the room, the food, and the fellowship always play a big part in putting on a powerful Bible Talk. But no other factor is as important as the practicality, relevance, and insightfulness of the discussion the leader orchestrates.

Rob has been one of my very best friends for the past 7 years. He's a talented ministry leader, devoted husband and father, a successful musician, producer, graphic artist, and web designer. Throughout his 23 years as a disciple he has tirelessly and selflessly served churches all around the world in the ministry. He uses his talents in media/print, creating videos, invites, business cards, conference banners, websites, retreat booklets, handouts, etc. The Hawaii, Los Angeles, and Washington DC churches have been lucky to have him serve them directly. More than all of his other amazing talents, Rob is an outstanding leader of Bible Discussions. When he and Burgandie arrived in DC and began leading the singles ministry and the Northwest DC region, I saw first-hand the impact of his leadership – virtually every single in the church wanted to travel all the way to the Northwest Region to be a part of their Bible Talk and their Devotionals.

With over 22 years of experience leading Bible discussions, Rob gives us an entire years worth of lessons which have been proven-- by the fruitfulness of Rob's groups-- to be effective and life-changing for those lucky enough to hear them being delivered. It is with great pleasure that I recommend this book to all disciples who want to expand upon their ability to lead a powerful and impacting Bible discussion.

Ron Harding

Lead Evangelist

Washington DC International Christian Church

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GETTING STARTED

Contained within this book are a collection of personal Bible talks that I've written over the past few years. On many occasions people have asked for them, but they were written with examples from my own life, and on topics that I found most interesting, so I declined. Well I'm glad to say that after years of people asking, I've finally decided to put them all together within this book, edited and customized for use by anyone. Special thanks to Lou Jack Martinez for his meticulous proofreading and editing skills.

There are a few things I'd recommend before doing any of these for an actual Bible talk. First off, make these your own. What I mean is go through the lesson ahead of time, make a few notes, and then present them, with any modifications that will make it much more comfortable for you to give each lesson. One approach I use often is to create new questions on the spot depending on the visitors or the direction that the discussion leads you.

HOW TO USE THESE LESSONS:

All questions are in bold print to make it easier for you as a leader. These questions are basic guides so feel free to modify them as you see fit. Of course certain questions were designed specifically for the discussion, so just keep that in mind. Now all the Scriptures are already printed in this book, but it's always a good idea to use the actual Bible.

Many of the other comments and suggested reading points are noted as bullet points throughout the lesson. These are to help you stay on track, and keep the momentum of the lesson as smooth and seamless as possible.

At the conclusion of each Bible talk there is a challenge specific to the lesson. These challenges are designed to help the visitors to engage. Ultimately, the goal is to stir the hearts of those attending to consider spending more time in the Scriptures, and eventually studying the Bible.

Many of the Bible talks within this book were written throughout different times of the year. Some of them are seasonal, some of them pertain to current affairs, and many of them are just favorite topics that have been close to my heart. My goal behind writing this book is to hopefully inspire new Bible talk leaders that just need a little push in the right direction.

After doing a few of the lessons, I urge you to take some time out to read the chapter on Writing Your Own Bible Talks. Good luck, and most importantly, have fun!

Rob Onekea

A GROUP EFFORT

(Special Note: This is a lesson for disciples within the Bible talk to help draw each other closer and to see the purpose of a Bible talk.)

Q) What is your favorite group?

Q) What are the different types of groups? Musicians, Paramedics, Athletes, Firefighters, Soldiers!

Q) What are groups good for? Tight-knit, band, unity.

Mark 3:14

He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach

Luke 11:1

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

John 18:20

"I have spoken openly to the world," Jesus replied. "I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret."

The common factor in these Scriptures is that Jesus taught in small groups.

Q) Why do you think he did that? It was the most effective way to reach people!

- It's key to have a team to rely on.
- The apostles in the NT relied on each other for support, for strength and encouragement!

Acts 2:42-44

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common.

Q) What were they devoted to?

Teaching, fellowship, eating/hospitality prayer.

Q) What does it mean to be devoted?

How much more do we need to do this?

Q) What do we all have in common?

The whole purpose of this lesson tonight is to help unify us as a Bible talk, and to ensure that we're following Philippians 2:1-2.

Philippians 2:1-2

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having

*the same love, being one in spirit
and of one mind.*

Q) What do we have to do to have an effective Bible?

- Arrive on time! Strive to get here at least 30 minutes ahead of time;
- Awesome food, sets an awesome mood!
- Make sure you have a visitor! Bible talk doesn't start the day of Bible talk--it starts as soon as it's done, for next week's Bible talk!
- If we do have visitors, it's important that we take care of them, talk with them and get to know them.
- Exchange information and follow up with them!
- Set up Bible studies! If we have no visitors, we need to go out sharing!
- Lastly, the goal is to encourage the visitors to interact. Try to create an environment of openness.

CHALLENGE: AS A BIBLE TALK WE NEED TO BE IN EACH OTHER'S LIVES! HOW MUCH TIME DO WE SPEND WITH EACH OTHER OUTSIDE OF BT?

MAKE A DECISION TO SPEND TIME WITH ANOTHER BIBLE TALK MEMBER THIS WEEK AND SPUR EACH OTHER ON TO LOVE AND GOOD DEEDS. HEBREWS 10:24-25

SMASHED IDOLS

Q) Who was your favorite American Idol?

American Idol still continues to be one of the most watched shows. It even inspired other shows like The Voice, X-Factor, and more.

Q) What did you like most about AI?

Q) Now who can tell me who was the winner of season 3? Season 7?

Fantasia / Jordan Sparks

Little known facts about former “idols”:

- Sanjaya Malakar tends bar in the EastVillage in NYC;
- Camile Velasco worked at a Subway in LA;
- Lee Dewyze won season nine and was immediately dropped by RCA when his album debuted as the lowest selling album for an AI winner;
- Carrie Underwood became the most successful winner of all time with 13 million albums sold;
- Kelly Clarkson will always be known as the first winner with 11.6 million albums sold.

Majority of the winners or runners up went on to achieve only a moderate amount of success.

The thing about idols is that eventually, they fade away. They don't last.

Exodus 20:4

“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.”

God was very specific about idols. Do not make them.

The dictionary definition of “idol” is: Any person or thing regarded with blind admiration, adoration, or devotion: a figment of the mind; an image of a deity
OTHER THEN GOD.

If you're familiar at all with the story of Moses in Exodus 32 we know that Moses went up to the top of Mt. Sinai to speak with God and he was gone for 40 days and nights. During that time the Israelites took it upon themselves to collect gold from everyone and create a “golden calf” to worship. Moses came down and was ticked off, had the idol smashed and ground into powder and made the people drink it.

Deuteronomy 12:1-4

These are the decrees and laws you must be careful to follow in the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has given you to possess—as long as you live in the land. Destroy completely all the places on the high mountains, on the hills and under every spreading tree, where the nations you are dispossessing worship their gods.

Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones and burn their Asherah poles in the fire; cut down the idols of their gods and wipe out their names from those places.

You must not worship the Lord your God in their way.

A little history on this passage, God gave these lands to the Israelites as far as they could see, but God had conditions; That they would not worship idols and must remove anything that would “distract them” from the Lord God.

Q) What things in our lives “distract us” from God?

Q) Why do you suppose we get so easily distracted?

- The problem with idols is they compete for our affection for, allegiance to and devotion to God.
- Now idols need to be made, meaning we value it enough to give it time to distract us; be it jobs, careers, hobbies, dreams, money, etc.
- The thing about idols is that they can be “worshipped” but they give nothing back in return!

Q) In regard to individuals and people who we tend to idolize, why do we idolize them?

There’s a difference between being inspired by someone and idolizing them.

Q) Now here’s a challenging question: What is the root cause of idolatry?

John Calvin said “*The human heart is an idol factory,*” because there’s no end to the number of idols we are capable of producing.

Man’s desire is to worship something. If it’s not God, it will easily become something else. We’re built to desire. We’re built to want. We just need to ensure that those desires and wants are godly.

Colossians 3:5-6

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.

This passage shows us what idolatry is... it’s our earthly nature!

- Sexual immorality (Because we desire our own pleasure before God’s)
- Impurity (We desire pleasure so much that we go after it even on our own terms)
- Lust (Desiring what is not ours. In our minds we conspire to the point of even playing with fire through flirtation)

- Evil Desires (Each person has very similar evil desires and they all lead to the same path)
- Greed (Because we want as much as we can get for ourselves. This is a ME sin because it's all about "ME")

Sometimes we think things like lust, greed, impurity are not that severe, yet they have become idols in our lives.

Q) Which one of these have become an idol in our lives?

Because of these things the wrath of God is coming.

CHALLENGE: LET'S SMASH THE IDOLS IN OUR LIVES AND SEE WHAT KIND OF DIFFERENCE IT CAN MAKE!