

## A GUIDE FOR READING THE GOSPEL OF JOHN TOGETHER

### THE PREMISES:

*Why we're encouraging this outreach method.*

- Evangelism is good and necessary. Fear is normal. Let boldness overcome fear.
- The Word of God is powerful. See Hebrews 4:12, Romans 10:17, etc.
- John was written so people will “believe.” See John 20:30-31.
- We should boldly and prayerfully invite people to read John.

### THE INVITATIONS:

*How to cultivate one or more people to read with you.*

- If possible, partner with someone—pray and brainstorm people you might invite.
- Don't worry if you don't know whether someone you're inviting is an unbeliever or not. All will benefit from reading John.
- Cultivate the relationship by saying something like: “Someday I'd love it if we read the Bible together.” Then—based on their reaction—decide whether to wait or schedule it.
- Don't ask for a long commitment. Say, “Let's just try it once and you can decide if you want to continue.”

## THE READING:

*How to lead a group with grace and patience.*

- If they don't know their way around the Bible, consider bringing two identical copies so you can tell them a page number rather than chapter and verse (at first).
- If you think entire chapters might be overwhelming to them, read in smaller sections. For example, John 1:1-18 is an excellent introduction to the identity of Jesus.
- Try to keep the conversation simple. Focus on two big ideas related to light and life:
  - Ask: "What truth do you think this chapter/passage teaches?"
  - Ask: "What life response do you think is expected?"
- Don't push for a decision, especially if they say they don't believe the Bible or something similar. Say, "I understand. I'm not asking you to believe it—just to understand this primary source (The Bible) of what I and other Christians believe." Let God's Word do the convincing work.

## THE CHALLENGE

- Be persistent. Some will agree to read. Others won't or won't do so immediately.
- Consider reading the *overview of Living Proof: Sharing the Gospel Naturally by Jim Petersen (1989, NavPress: Colorado Springs; ISBN 08910-95616)* for more ideas.
- You can do this—you are God's messenger!