

### A CONVICTION OF THE CBR JOURNAL

*Engaging with our Gospel Community in our Daily Bible Reading  
...is as Valuable as and as Vital as...our Daily Bible Reading.*

### THE GOAL FOR THE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

*We want your Engagement with your Gospel Community in your Daily Bible Reading  
over the next 30 days to Increase in Quantity and Quality compared to the past 30 days.*

### THE PLAN FOR THE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

- 1 - To Consider some of what The Bible teaches about Community
- 2 - To Consider some of what the Bible teaches about Bible Reading in Community
- 3 - To Consider Steps that can Increase your Engagement of your Gospel Community in your Bible Reading
- 4 - To Engage this Community while Reading the Bible

### SOME OF WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT COMMUNITY

#### 1 - THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT WE STEWARD A VITAL POWER IN EACH OTHER'S LIVES

- A. We almost always become like the Community we live life with.  
**Proverbs 13:20** *Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.*
- B. Current Community is almost always more powerful than Past Community.  
**1 Corinthians 15:33** *Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals."*
- C. Everyone who Believes the Gospel (initially or more fully)...has other(s) Believe it *for* them *before* them.  
**Luke 5:20** *And when he saw THEIR faith, he said, "MAN, your sins are forgiven you."*
- D. If we live in Isolation to avoid Foolish Community, we live with a Fool.  
**Proverbs 18:1** *Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment.*

#### 2 - THE BIBLE TEACHES WHY WE STEWARD A VITAL POWER IN EACH OTHER'S LIVES

- A. Adam and Eve were created **BY** an **Inter-Dependent** Community (IDC) **AS** an IDC **FOR** an IDC.
  1. **"Inter-Dependence"** is believing that we need the same people who need us.  
**"Independence"** is believing that we *shouldn't* need anyone else...even if they need us.  
**"Over-Dependence"** is believing that we need others more than they need us...if they need us at all.
  2. **BY** an IDC - **Genesis 1:26** - Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."  
**AS** an IDC - **Genesis 2:18** - It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.  
**FOR** an IDC - **Genesis 1:28** - Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion.

- B. After Redeeming His People from Slavery, God fed His Community through **Inter-Dependence**.  
**Exodus 16:18** “Whoever gathered too much had none left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack.”
- C. Paul teaches that each Gospel Community is an **Inter-Dependent** Community.  
**Galatians 6:2-5** Bear one another’s *burdens*, and so fulfill the law of Christ. [3] For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. [4] But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. [5] For each should bear his own *load*.
1. We are called to “bear one another’s burdens” and to “bear our own load” ... Are these contradictory?
- D. Many of the “One Another” Commands of the New Testament presume **Inter-Dependence**.
1. **John 13:14** - Wash One Another’s Feet
  2. **James 5:16** - Pray for One Another
  3. **Hebrews 10:24** - Stir up One Another to Love and Good Deeds
  4. **1 Peter 4:9** - Show Hospitality to One Another without grumbling
  5. **We often have something we need...that we can give to others...but cannot or should not give to ourselves.**

### 3 – THE BIBLE TEACHES **HOW** WE PRIMARILY STEWARD THAT VITAL POWER IN EACH OTHER’S LIVES

- A. God Created the Universe by Speaking. (**Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26** “And God Said...and it was so.”)
- B. **Jesus Upholds the Universe by the Word of His Power (Hebrews 1:3).**
- C. So, Created in His Image, our ability to Communicate is The Most Powerful Resource we Steward.
1. **Proverbs 18:21** Death and life are in the power of the tongue.
  2. **Proverbs 15:4** A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.
  3. **Proverbs 12:18** Rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.
  4. **Proverbs 16:24** Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.
  5. The Tongue is illustrated as a **Bit, Rudder and Spark** in James 3. Why?

**SOME OF WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT BIBLE READING IN COMMUNITY**

- A. In Deuteronomy 8, Moses shared Deeper Lessons on why God fed His People with manna the way He did.  
**8:3** *And The LORD humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna...that He might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.*
1. What Initial Lessons should the Israelites have learned from 40 years of Manna Gathering?
  2. What Deeper Lessons was God preparing them to learn while they gathered manna for 40 years?
  3. What can we learn about Bible Reading from The Israelites' Manna Gathering?
- B. **Colossians 3:16** - *Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom.*
1. Do we have a role to play in whether or not The Word dwells in us richly?
  2. How does The Word “dwell in us richly”? (And how does this presume Inter-Dependence?)

**STEPS THAT CAN INCREASE OUR ENGAGEMENT OF OUR GOSPEL COMMUNITY IN OUR BIBLE READING****STEP ONE – JOIN A CBR JOURNAL GROUP**

- A. The most effective “groups” are 4-6 men or women who interact daily via text and meet occasionally in person.
- B. It’s great if your CBR Journal Group overlaps with other “groups” in your life, but this is not necessary.

**STEP TWO – SHARE YOUR TENDENCY WITH YOUR CBR JOURNAL GROUP**

- A. When struggling with Inter-Dependence, do you tend towards Over-Dependence or Independence?
- B. How might this Tendency effect your participation with a CBR Journal Group?
- C. How can you acknowledge this to your CBR Journal Group?

**STEP THREE – FOCUS ON (CHALLENGE WITH) THE GOSPEL**

- A. **Colossians 3:16** - Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom.
1. What is the “Word of Christ” and what difference does it make when it lives abundantly in you?
  2. Review – How does The Word of Christ (The Gospel) dwell richly in you?
  3. Compare and Contrast “teaching” and “admonishing”.
- B. **Ephesians 4:25, 29** Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another...[29] Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.
1. How does this passage reinforce what we’ve learned about Inter-Dependence?
  2. How does this reinforce what we’ve learned about The Power of Words?
  3. Describe communication that is “good for building up” and communication that “corrupts”.
- C. **Hebrews 3:12-14** - Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. [13] But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. [14] For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.
1. How does this passage reinforce what we’ve learned about the Power of Community?
  2. How does this passage reinforce what we’ve learned about Inter-Dependence?
  3. What are we to “exhort one another” towards every day?
  4. What does “exhort” look like?

**STEP FOUR – FOLLOW THE CBR JOURNAL DESIGN**

- A. How can The CBR Journal help you Increase your Engagement of your Gospel Community in your Bible Reading?

**ENGAGING THIS COMMUNITY WHILE READING THE BIBLE**

**1. SURRENDER THROUGH PRAYER.**

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**2. LISTEN TO THE SCRIPTURES (PSALM 1).**

[1] Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;  
[2] but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.  
[3] He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.  
In all that he does, he prospers.  
[4] The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.  
[5] Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;  
[6] for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

**3. PRAY THROUGH YOUR PEN.**

<p><b>Adoration</b> Adore and Praise God for his Attributes and Actions</p>	<p><b>Confession</b> Confess your Sinfulness and acknowledge your Sins</p>
<p><b>Thanksgiving</b> Thank Jesus for his Salvation (past, present, future)</p>	<p><b>Supplication</b> Ask for the Spirit to transform you in particular ways</p>

**4. PREPARE FOR GOSPEL COMMUNITY.**

How has God impacted you the most through today's Passage?

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