



BIBLE STUDY: INITIAL GATHERING

VISION AND KEY CONTENT

The first time our bible study comes together is an irreplaceable opportunity to give the impression that our bible study will not only be worth our participant's time, but the highlight of their week.

*"Jesus said to them,
'Come and have
breakfast.'"*

John 21:12

To that end, we will...

- Have a great time
- Help members connect with one another
- Share short testimony and a strong vision for Bible study
- Make key invitations (Bible study, external hang out, etc.)

HAVE A GREAT TIME

Go all out and be creative, or keep it tried true and simple – either way works great. Just make sure that your activity is conducive for lively conversation. Consider the following ideas...

Tried and True

- Home cooked dinner
- Coffee shop gathering
- Cookies and/or charcuterie board
- Park Picnic
- Tailgate Style Cook Out

21 and Up

- Home cocktail bar
- Cigars around a fire
- Pipe night



CONNECT

Let your participants leave having made a few new friends. Because the most effective Bible Studies are built on authentic friendships, help the group connect by taking turns to introduce themselves, answering 2-3 of the following questions along the way as time permits. Start with the leader!

- What do you do for fun (or hobbies)?
- What is your favorite place to visit?
- What's your favorite sport/podcast/show and why?
- Why did you decide to join Bible Study?
- What do you hope to get out of Bible Study? In what ways do you think it might help you grow?

Afterwards, create a group chat (name it something fun!). Have people pass their phones around in a circle until everyone has shared their contact info with everyone else.

LEADER TESTIMONY

Now that everyone has gotten to know one another a little better, the leader shares a brief personal testimony (reference *The Power of your Testimony* for pointers) and explains their "why" for leading a bible study. Remember to share something that touches on all three of the purposes of Bible study (Divine Intimacy, Authentic Friendship, Spiritual Multiplication). For Example: "I am so excited to be leading this Bible study with you all because I want to help you pray with the Word of God, have deep friendship with one another, and share your faith with others."

SHARE VISION FOR BIBLE STUDY

Take a moment to share with your group a little bit about your vision for bible study this semester. Keeping it brief, introduce the Crux Bible Study and its purpose (to explore and respond to the basic Gospel message) as well as what excites you about this group.

INVITE

Share a compelling invitation to...

- The next Bible study (Time, place, etc.)
- Invite others to the first bible study. Challenge them to all think of 1-2 other people.
- One thing you're already doing that week outside of bible study (e.g., Studying at 2pm on Wednesday in the library or eating at the dining hall at 12pm on Friday).