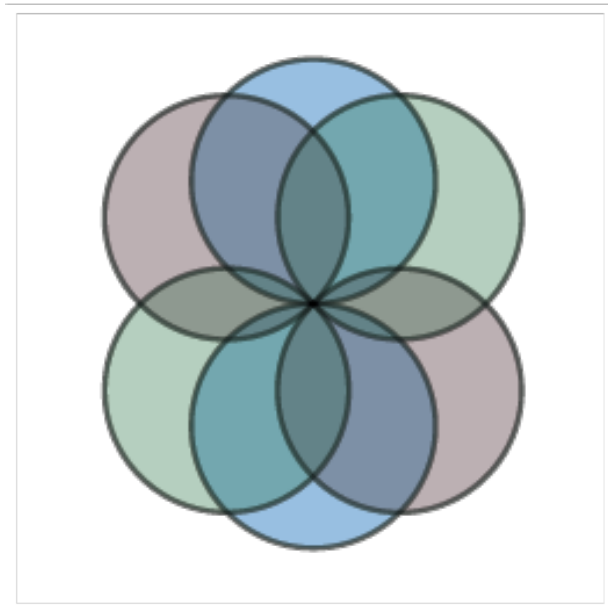


The Bridge HTX House Church Track



Welcome

We were created to be in relationships. First with God our Father, and then with each other. But relationships take work, they take time to cultivate and grow. Think back on your closest relationships? What do most of them have in common?

Time. Time together- listening, learning, having fun, fighting, challenging, laughing. There is no replacement for time. God is our most important relationship, but in some ways is no different than one with our friends or families. To grow your relationship with God, it takes time. Time in the Word. Time in Prayer. Time in Silence. Time to abide. This reading plan is an invitation to spend time with Him. To prioritize at least ten minutes a day to read, pray, and reflect (or meditate). We pray that the more time you spend with God, the more your relationship with Him will grow and flourish. That you will cherish that time with Him, and ten minutes grows to 15, then 30, then an hour. We know that our humanity will get in the way - that we'll sleep in a day, or the kids will wake up extra early, or maybe we just don't feel like spending time with Him. Just like with everything in our lives, God has grace for those times, because even if you aren't there, He is. Waiting with open arms, waiting to talk to you.

We are building lifelong disciplines, because even though God is constant we are not. Scripture never changes, but God, in His grace, will always meet us where we are in whatever life season we are in. These disciplines are a lifelong pursuit. *Your relationship with God is a lifelong pursuit.*

And like we said: we are created for relationships, so we pray that as you spend time with God, He reveals things to you to share with others. That your daily pursuit of God builds into your other relationships and you come to your huddles and house churches ready to share, encourage, ask questions, and discuss with one another. Sundays are not reserved for just one person giving a 35-minute teaching (but there is a time and a place for that), but *“When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up. (1 Corinthians 14:26)”*. Everyone has something to share and contribute.

This four-week track is not only to build in the disciplines, but to equip The Bridge community with a Biblical understanding & imagination of what God created the church to be, in order to awaken an affection for pursuing a way of life together born out of the Gospel of Jesus. **We want to journey together as we look at Scripture to see who Jesus is, what His mission is, what our role is, and how we will pursue existing as a network of House Churches.**

How to use this guide

- **If you only have 10-15 minutes:**
 - Read the scripture from the reading plan.
 - *Before reading*, ask God for understanding and for it to lead you to know Him more and understand yourself more.
 - *After reading*, pray for God to reveal Himself to you and for you to walk in the Truth given.
 - *Pray*: read the prayer focus and allow them to fill your prayers throughout the day.
- **If you have 15-30 minutes:**
 - Read the Scripture in the reading plan.
 - Take time to read and reflect on the questions provided and pray through the prayer prompts.
 - For even more impact, write it down - there is something powerful about writing down your thoughts and prayers. Further, writing things down helps us to slow down and be more present.
- **If you have 30+ minutes:**
 - Take some time to be still and silent before you do anything.
 - Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to illuminate God's love, Character, and transforming Truth to you.
 - Read the provided scripture
 - Journal through each reflection question and write out your prayers.
 - Allow the Holy Spirit to take you "off script" and don't be afraid to follow.
 - *If this is new to you, ask someone in your House Church to share with you how they approach their time with the Lord.*
- Every day a Psalm is included to start our time in worship. The Psalms are given in order with the intent to continue to read and loop through the Psalms throughout the year.
- If you miss a day, jump back in. It's not about a quota or task, it's about enjoying time with the living God and experiencing relationship with Him.
- While there is no specific reading, outside of a Psalm, for Saturdays (or Day 6) we encourage you to find time to *enjoy your relationship with God*- whether that's extended time in prayer, reading from another part in Scripture, catch up day, playing to Worship Music, family devotional activity, etc.
- Sundays are communal days- spend time in prayer before your House Church being ready to share with others and enjoy the relational time with one another.
- **Resources**- we have included several resources on our website- www.thebridgehtx.org/resources to help further your study of Scripture and different topics.

Overview

The goal of this track is to build clear expectations of what it looks like to be a family member of a House Church.

Acts 2:42 is a pattern meant to be pursued and expressed in both the life of every Christ-follower as well as the life of every Gospel community called together as a church. The text starts with “**they devoted themselves,**” meaning this is both a personal and communal journey together that goes beyond the once a week gathering.

- Personal
 - The Apostles Teaching
 - Pursue being in the Word Daily
 - *Resource:* Daily Reading Plan
 - Commit to at least read the passages in the reading plan.
 - Utilize supplemental resources to grow in meditating deeply on the Word of God more and more over time.
 - If you get behind on the reading plan, just pick back up where you can to join back in where the plan is for the day. The point is to enjoy fellowship with God in His Word and to share the journey with your Faith family.
 - Prayer
 - Spend time in prayer daily
 - *Resource:* Daily Prayer Focus and meditate on scripture
 - Fellowship
 - Intentionally reach out to others from your House Church throughout the week - invest in relationships
 - Personal Discipleship/Huddle
 - Breaking of Bread
 - Prioritize your schedule to leave room for unhurried time with your House Church family.
 - Missional Fellowship
 - Who is not at the table that needs to be?
 - Name 3-5 people to pray for regularly and be intentional towards
 - Life rhythms to invite others into- believers & non-believers
 - Invite the lost and hurting into Gospel community, bible study, & prayer

- Communal
 - The Apostles Teaching
 - What the Holy Spirit reveals to you throughout the week is not just for you alone. Pray and expect the Holy Spirit to speak to you and through you to others in your House Church.
 - Exhort one another throughout the week with what the Holy Spirit is illuminating throughout the week.
 - Prayer
 - Share prayer opportunities with your House Church community regularly. Stop and pray in the moment whenever possible, don't just offer to pray later when needs come up
 - Pray for and with each other often
 - Make sure that prayer is part of your huddle
 - Fellowship
 - Make and accept invites to spend time with others in your House Church family
 - Inviting each other into times of need is a rich opportunity for fellowship
 - Huddles/Personal Discipleship relationships
 - Breaking of Bread
 - Prioritize unhurried time around the table with your House Church family.
 - Be intentional to adopt a posture of communal gratitude and worship when you are around the table...especially those in your House Church.
 - Invite others/those who do not believe to House Church
 - Missional Fellowship
 - Support and know each others mission
 - Go together to share the hope of Christ with others and serve needs in the community

Week 1: The Person of Jesus

Jesus - the Word of God in the flesh - is the founder, foundation, and focus of the Church

Day 1: Jesus the Incarnate Word

Read: Psalm 1, John 1:1-18

Reflect & Pray: Who is Jesus? Why is it significant that Jesus, God in the flesh, actually lived a human life? Pray in adoration & gratitude for Jesus' humility & compassion that led him to live & die as a human for humanity's sake.

Day 2: Jesus the Suffering Savior

Read: Psalm 2, Isaiah 53:1-12, Hebrews 5:7-9, 1 Peter 3:17-18,

Reflect & Pray: What did Jesus' suffering save us from? Why did Jesus choose to suffer? Given suffering that you've experienced, how significant is it that Jesus willingly suffered for your sake? Pray with gratitude for salvation achieved for us by Jesus through suffering.

Day 3: Jesus the Unifying Head

Read: Psalm 3, Ephesians 1:15-23, Ephesians 4:11-16, Colossians 1:13-27

Reflect & Pray: What makes only Jesus suitable to be the Head of the Church? What assurance do you find in Jesus as the Head of the Church? Do you ever struggle to accept Jesus' headship? Pray for joyful submission to Jesus as our trustworthy Head.

Day 4: Jesus the Selfless Bridegroom

Read: Psalm 4, Ephesians 5:22-30, Revelations 21:1-27

Reflect & Pray: How do you feel knowing that Jesus' sacrifice for you makes you forever blameless in God's eyes? Pray with grateful affection for Jesus, the perfect, purifying, servant leader.

Day 5: Jesus the Perfect Cornerstone

Read: Psalm 5, Ephesians 2:1-22

Reflect & Pray: What are the benefits of being a member of God's household (the Church)? What is the effect of Jesus being the sole cornerstone of the Church? Pray for constant trust in Jesus as the most dependable foundation.

Day 6: Worship

Read: Psalm 6 and pray

Day 7: Communal

Read: Psalm 7 and spend time in prayer before you meet and worship with your House Church

Week 2: The Purpose of Jesus

Jesus' mission is to reconcile fallen creation back into restored relationship with God. As He was sent by the Father in the power of the Spirit, He sends us together on His mission of deliverance to love God, love others, and share His Gospel until He completes the redemption of all creation.

Day 1: Why did Jesus Come and what's that got to do with us?

Read: Psalm 8, Genesis 2:2-17, Genesis 3, Mark 1:9-15, 1 John 1:7-2:2

Reflect & Pray: What are the results of Adam and Eve's sin in the world? How has/does others' sin impact you? How has your sin impacted others? What does Jesus call everyone to do? What does He promise to do in return? Pray and acknowledge depth and breadth of our sins and need for Jesus. Confess personal sin in thought, word, and deed. Repent by turning to Jesus and walking in the freedom of forgiveness today.

Day 2: Proclaim the Good News to all Sinners

Read: Psalm 9, Luke 4:16-21, Matthew 9:9-13

Reflect & Pray: What kind of people did Jesus come for? In what ways did he follow through and save people? Which people in these stories do you identify with and why? How important is proclamation of good news to Jesus? How can you demonstrate the Gospel's importance today in your speech and actions? Thank Jesus for calling you out of bondage, poverty, and destruction. Ask for help today in seeing and meeting others' physical and heart needs. Pray for boldness in speaking Jesus' heart for the physically and spiritually poor, captive, oppressed, and blind.

Day 3: Eternal and Abundant Life through His Own life

Read: Psalm 10, John 6:35-40, John 10:1-18

Reflect & Pray: What was the will of the Father for Jesus? What does it mean that Jesus is the Shepherd and a person is His sheep? What promises are given for those who believe in Him? How does that impact your day today? Spend time talking to God in adoration and appreciation. Meditate on and thank God for the ways Jesus has shepherded you. Praise God for the promise of resurrection and ask Him to help you live with this in mind today.

Day 4: To Seek, Save, and Change the lost

Read: Psalm 11, Luke 19:1-10, Mark 5:1-20

Reflect & Pray: In what ways does Jesus demonstrate His power in these stories? What evidences the change Jesus brought? How do those delivered by Jesus respond? In what ways is God calling you to learn from and imitate their response? Meditate on the power of Jesus to deliver in any circumstance. List all your problems small or big and give them to Him. Ask God to give one

Day 5: Empowered by the Spirit for Gospel Mission

Read: Psalm 12, John 20:19-23, Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8

Reflect & Pray: What is the mission Jesus gave His disciples? How does this mission intersect with your life? Do you live life as one “sent” on Jesus’ mission to make disciples? Why or why not? Thank God for saving you and giving you a greater purpose: making disciples of all nations. Ask God to help you to share in His calling where you live, work, and play.

Day 6: Worship

Read: Psalm 13 and pray

Day 7: Communal

Read: Psalm 14 and spend time in prayer before you meet and worship with your House Church

Week 3: The People of Jesus

The Church is not a building, it is a people and the people are a vitally interconnected community – a family – that lives in deep love and unity as a vibrant testimony of the reality of Jesus.

Day 1: A Love so Great

Read: Psalm 15, John 13:1-14:12

Reflect & Pray: In what ways has God shown His great love to you in Christ? How has experiencing the love of Christ equipped you to love others? What is your opportunity to love your family/those you live with, your church family, and your neighbors? Pray for God's abiding love to hold you and keep you and for you to have the discipline to actively pursue relationship with Him. Pray for a deep love and compassion for others in your life. Pray that you would be a part of cultivating a deep love for one another in your church.

Day 2: A Unity so Great

Read: Psalm 16, John 17

Reflect & Pray: How would you define unity? What are all the areas of our lives that God is speaking of that we (the church) should live in unity together? From Jesus's prayer in John 17, what does our unity as a community of Christ-followers (or unity in any church) result in? Biblical unity comes from us sharing a like heart and a like mind with Christ- with that, where do you have opportunity to pursue unity with your church? Pray for your identity, priorities and activity to be rooted in the person and work of Jesus. Pray that God would use you to lead/disciple others into fellowship and fellowship of Jesus. Pray for the unity that comes from following Jesus together and your part in deepening it for your church. Pray for those in your life by name that need to witness this testimony of unity that would lead them to Jesus.

Day 3: How the Church is Made Healthy and Strong

Read: Psalm 17, Ephesians 4:1-5:21

Reflect & Pray: What does it look like for your life to “walk in a manner worthy of your calling?” What IS the call that we have in Christ? Do you believe that you are part of God’s design and desire for how He plans to build up and equip the church for His Kingdom purpose? Do you presently feel responsible for the spiritual well-being of others in your house church? Pray for a deeper love and experience of fellowship with God. Pray for your own understanding of how God has prepared and equipped you to serve and build others up. Pray that our churches would grow into living as a multi-generational spiritual family. Pray for God to be glorified through all that we are and do.

Day 4: Every Person is Equipped

Read: Psalm 18, 1 Corinthians 12 & 13 (*Bonus Reading: Romans 12*)

Reflect & Pray: Do you believe and experience that you are uniquely equipped to making your church more embody the love and purpose of Jesus than it would be without you? Why or why not (be specific)? Where do you see your specific abilities, interests, experiences, etc... contributing to the spiritual well-being and Gospel mission of your House Church? What would your house church “look like” if every Christ-follower embraced this and lived this out? What is one way you can use your gifts mentioned above today to build up the people in your house church? Pray for humility as well as confidence that comes from knowing that all that you have is from God by His design for His glory and the good of others around you. Pray that we would never separate the expression of our giftedness from our expression of the love of Jesus. Pray for those in your life who need to experience the extravagant love of God and how you can share it with them personally.

Day 5: One is Always a Part of the Sum

Read: Psalm 19, 1 Peter 2

Reflect & Pray: Have you tasted that the Lord is good? Do you savor Him daily? Do you hear and believe His gracious invitation to abide with Him daily just as you are? What does it mean to you that this passage says, “that you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession?” In reference to 1 Pet 2:9, how does this relate to you as well as you being a part of God’s set apart people in Christ? Do you believe this promise that you are called out of darkness into His marvelous light? What does it mean to die to sin and live in righteousness. Pray and reflect on the glorious work of Jesus who endured shame, reviling, and death and how His work gives you strength, hope, and peace in the midst of this life. Pray for God to grow a sense in you that your faith is deeply personal but not individualistic. Pray that this would both give you strength as well as grow your affection for the people in your church. Pray, by name, for those in your life that need to know Jesus to see this testimony in you and your church and come to call on Christ as Savior and Lord.

Day 6: Worship

Read: Psalm 20 and pray

Day 7: Communal

Read: Psalm 21 and spend time in prayer before you meet and worship with your House Church

Week 4: The Product of Jesus

The foundation of our identity in Jesus, being on mission for Jesus, and using our gifts for Jesus leads us to pursue life and mission together as a family together as a network of House Churches. Summarized as: Love God, Love People, Share Jesus, Do it Together.

Day 1: The Vine and the Branches

Read: Psalm 29, John 15

Reflect & Pray: Jesus, in John 15 teaches us that the fruit of our lives flows out of our abiding in Him and obedience to Him. What is the relationship between abiding and obedience? What ways do you feel close to God? What patterns of your life have you/do you need to establish to make time to abide? What type of fruit do you produce? Why is the fruit we produce as Christ-followers important? What can you do to love (verses 12&13) others in your House Church and your neighbors? Pray for an abiding presence with God. Pray for opportunities to love others (including those in your House Church) well. Pray that you stay rooted in the Word and God's truth when facing opposition from the world. Pray and look to Jesus as your example of how to love others well.

Day 2: Fruits of the Spirit

Read: Psalm 30, Galatians 5:16-6:10

Reflect & Pray: Verses 24 & 25 are the key to protect you from reading legalism into this teaching from Galatians 5:16-26 where living by the Spirit is nothing more than being good at keeping certain rules. How do verses 24 & 25 do that? See that walking by the Spirit starts with you belonging to Jesus by grace through your faith in Him. How does this empower and liberate your life of faith in Jesus? What fruits of the Spirit would you say are consistently present in your life? What fruits of the spirit would you prayerfully desire and pursue to see God, in His grace, increase in your life? One of the most impactful ways to cultivate the fruits of the Spirit in you is to practice them. Where do you have opportunity to express those fruits you desire to see grow? Pray for the work of your life of faith unto God to be rooted in His love for you shown in Christ, your love for Him, and the reality that you are a new creation in Christ. Pray for you to exhibit the fruits of the Spirit as you are transformed by His grace. Pray that the Lord would enable the fruit of your life to minister to the needs of those around you.

Day 3: Putting On and Taking Off

Read: Psalm 31, Colossians 3:1-17

Reflect & Pray: Do you have your mind set to the eternal realities of your life in Christ (things above) or is your mind set on your temporary circumstances and lesser truths (things of earth)? What sins/old ways do you need to put to death/take Off? How can others in your House Church come alongside you? What are the things you need to put on? Is there an area/person in your life who you need to ask for forgiveness? Is there an area/person in your life who you need to forgive? Take a moment be still before our Holy God and revel in the reality that you have been raised with Christ (v.1) if you have confessed and believed on Him. Ask God to reveal any present sinfulness in your life and pray and confess those to God. Ask God to show you a trusted brother or sister in Christ that you can share the opportunity of confession and repentance before God and pray for vulnerability to let them in. Surrender and ask God to shape your heart to, above all else, long for the things we are told to put on in these verses. Pray that you extend the same love, grace, and forgiveness that God has shown you to others.

Day 4: Prayer of Faith

Read: Psalm 32, James 5:7-20

Reflect and Pray: Vs. 7 says, “Be patient.” Is there is something specific you are waiting for God to resolve? How does the analogy of the farmer waiting for their crops to yield fruit instruct your heart on how you should wait on the Lord? How has God extended His compassion and mercy to you? Walk through the instruction from James in vs. 13-20 and pray for specific people that come to mind as you do Pray for God to grow your trust in Him knowing that He will provide for all your needs today as well your need for your eternal hope. Make a confession and proclamation of trusting that His plans and understandings are greater than your own and always for your good and His glory. Pray for steadfastness and peace that comes from God. Pray for a growing heart of prayer.

Day 5: Life as a House Church

Read: Psalm 33, Acts 2:42-47, Hebrews 10:19-25

Reflect & Pray: How can you personally live out the life of a Christian laid out in these verses (be specific)? How do you incorporate the elements of the apostle's teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer beyond the Sunday House Church Gathering? These passages shows us that we can live in deep, Gospel-centered relationships as a church while also making a deep Gospel impact on our communities. How does that reality relate to your: life & community, the difficulty of having enough time, and how you go about engaging the world for Jesus? Pray for how your House Church can live these same things out, together. Pray for unity in your House Church. Pray for opportunities for everyone to use their gifts. Pray for your House Church to be a safe place for Christians to grow in their faith, and seekers to taste and experience Jesus. Pray for the person and purpose of Jesus to overtake all of who we are and what we do. Pray for the other House Churches in The Bridge HTX Collective. Pray that they will also embody these things.

Day 6: Worship

Read: Psalm 34 and pray

Day 7: Communal

Read: Psalm 35 and spend time in prayer before you meet and worship with your House Church

Mission and Values

Mission Statement

We commit to a journey of transformation together towards Jesus for the glory of God.

Core Values

Together in Biblical Community

Living as a family journeying together towards Jesus. Summarized as Love God. Love People. Share Jesus. Do it Together

Scripture — Acts 2:42-46, John 13:34-35, Romans 12:4-8, 1 Thessalonians 2:8

Missional to the Community

Living as a family AND living deployed from our neighbors to the ends of the earth for the Gospel mission, understanding that every Christian is a disciplemaker and every disciplemaker is a missionary with a mission field to claim.

Scripture — Jeremiah 29:7, Ezekiel 3:18, Matthew 5:14-16, John 1:14, John 15:15, John 17:1-26, Acts 2:47

Living Under Biblical Authority

It is our joy to submit our entire lives to God's leading through His commands and teaching in all Scripture (the Bible) because it shows us who God is through revealing His will and Character as well as showing us who we are and our purpose in life.

Scripture — Psalm 1:2-3, Psalm 19:7-11, Matthew 5:17-20, John 1:1-5, John 5:39-40, Colossians 1:9-10, 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Living in Biblical Freedom

Through the work of Jesus, we embrace freedom from slavery to our selfish desires (sin) and to go to any and all who need to see His Truth and love.

Scripture — John 8:31, John 8:34-35, Romans 8:1-11, 2 Corinthians 3:17, Galatians 5:1, 1 Peter 2:16-17

Committed to Multiplying Disciples and Churches

As we live out these values, we will spread God's glory by cultivating and multiplying followers of Jesus who impact the world around them resulting in the need to send out house churches over and over again.

Scripture - Matthew 28:18-20, 1 Corinthians 14:12, 2 Timothy 2:2

Three Pursuits

Fellowship with Jesus Daily

Cultivate Deep Relationship with one another

Practice Gospel intentionality to your neighbor

S.O.A.P. BIBLE STUDY METHOD

The S.O.A.P. method is a simple and fruitful approach to personally studying scripture. The SOAP acronym is helpful in remembering the most foundational pieces necessary in reading the Word. So grab your Bible and enjoy what the Lord has for you.

S – Scripture

Write down the Bible passage you'll be studying OR if the passage is long write down what stands out to you. This can be one verse or several. I've found that writing helps me focus on each word individually and on the passage as a whole. It also helps me soak it in and meditate on it.

O – Observations

Examine the text and write down what you notice.

- What jumps out to you in the passage?
- Who is it written by & to?
- What's one thing you didn't notice before?
- What seems interesting or unusual?
- What comes before and after the text?
- Is there repetition, comparison, or contrast?

These observations may start with the obvious (i.e., Jesus spent time with his disciples), but will gradually become deeper.

A – Applications

Apply God's Word to your life in a practical way. This is the part where you personalize your study of Scripture. As you read over the text, how does it apply to you? Is there a specific action you need to take or a confession you need to make?

If it's an action, try to make it SMART: specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time-bound.

P – Prayer

Respond to God's Word with your own words. Accumulating head knowledge about God is of little use; it's heart transformation He's after, and that's only possible through the work of the Holy Spirit.

Pray that the seed (the Scripture you just studied) falls on good soil in your heart, so that it will take root and produce fruit. Praise God for His attributes revealed in the passage. Confess any sin that has come to light during this time of studying. Thank Him for His Word and His care. And ask the Holy Spirit to continue growing you into a disciple of Jesus.

source: <https://onethingalone.com/the-soap-method-of-studying-the-bible/>