

# City Nights

Youth.

## DATE

August 27th, 2025

## SERIES

Practice Makes Perfect Week Three

## SERIES LINK

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## BEFORE GROUP

### BOTTOM LINE:

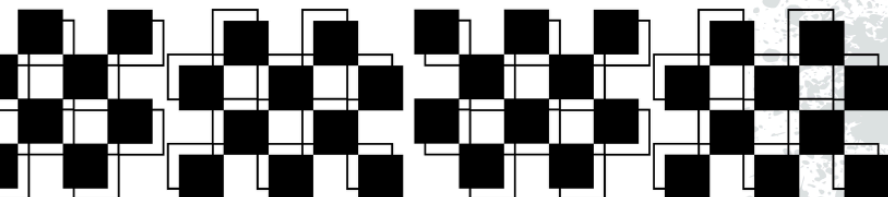
The Bible connects us to God and the world around us

### SCRIPTURE:

- 2 Timothy 3:16
- Hebrew 4:12
- Romans 15:4

### GOAL OF COMMUNITY GROUPS:

To encourage students to read their Bible, not because it is a chore, but because it furthers their relationship with God.



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## THINK ABOUT THIS:

This week, we're talking through the idea that the Bible isn't just an old book of rules, it's God's living Word, meant to connect us to Him, His people throughout history, and the world around us. Many students approach Scripture with guilt ("I know I should read it more") or boredom ("It's hard to understand"), so your role is to reframe Bible reading as an invitation rather than an obligation. The goal is not to shame students into reading more, but to help them see the beauty, power, and personal nature of God's Word.

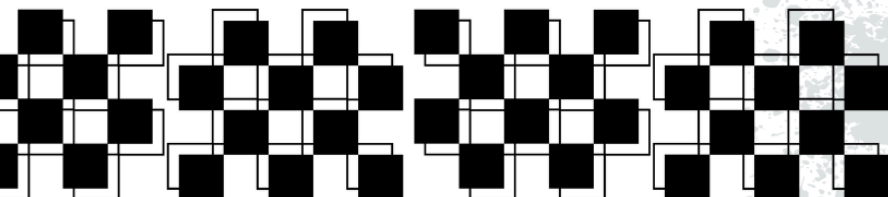
We'll be discussing how the Bible is "God-breathed," alive, and active, and how it has shaped believers for thousands of years. Some students may have never read the Bible on their own, while others may feel stuck or disconnected from it. Create space for them to ask questions, express doubts, and explore practical ways to connect with the Bible in daily life.

A big part of the discussion will be walking them through the practice of *Lectio Divina*, a slow, reflective way of reading Scripture that focuses on listening to God. Students don't need to leave as Bible scholars, they just need to leave knowing they can open the Bible and hear God speak. By the end of group time, help them choose one small, realistic step they can take this week to start (or restart) the habit of daily Bible reading.

*This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. The goal is to get students verbally engaging, NOT to get through everything in the curriculum.*

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## DURING COMMUNITY GROUP



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## HIGH/LOWS & OPENING QUESTIONS:

Begin with highs & lows from their week after they introduce each other. Really take this time to listen and ask questions to show you are interested in their lives.

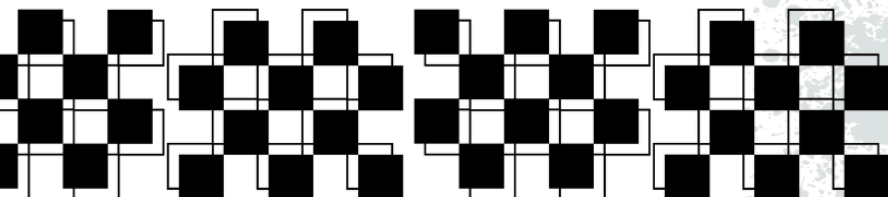
**ICEBREAKER:** If you could have one question answered, what would it be?

## SCRIPTURE/VIDEO DISCUSSION:

(Some groups may watch the video to begin Group time and then break off into their smaller groups, and that's okay)

## DISCUSS THIS

1. The Bible is described as “God-breathed” and “alive and active.” How does seeing Scripture as God’s voice rather than just words on a page change the way you think about reading it?
2. When have you felt like God was far away? How could spending more time in Scripture help you feel connected to Him again?
3. The Bible connects us to other Christians across history. How does knowing believers for thousands of years have read the same verses you read today encourage you in your faith?
4. Romans 15:4 says Scripture gives us endurance and hope. Can you share a verse that’s encouraged you or helped you get through something hard?
5. Scripture was described as glasses that help you see the world clearly. What’s one way the Bible has helped you see a situation, relationship, or yourself differently?
6. Our culture sends a lot of messages about identity, worth, and success. Which of those messages do you think Scripture challenges the most, and how?
7. The sermon introduced Lectio Divina (Read, Reflect, Respond, Rest) as a way to read the Bible. Which step sounds easiest for you? Which one sounds hardest, and why?
8. What’s one practical way you could start making Bible reading a daily habit, either on your own or with a friend this week?



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## DO THIS

We talked about the process of *Lectio Divina*, a spiritual practice that includes reading, reflecting upon, responding to, and resting on one central scripture over and over again. As a group, find a short, easy to read passage that you can practice with each and every day. The goal is to find one passage that will be repeated each day; there's no pressure to read through a whole book or even a whole chapter, but to posture your heart to read and repeat one passage!

