

Drawing Near to God--How do I spend time with God?

Connect

Start by asking how people are doing.

Then say, "We've been talking this semester about what it means to draw closer to God. Just like getting closer to a friend, you have to spend time with God if you want to know him better. One of the best ways to do this is to read the Bible a little bit every day. But for a lot of people, reading the Bible can be kind of intimidating--you just don't know where to start or what to do. So for the rest of the semester, we're going to use some different, creative ways to spend time with Jesus and get to know what his Word says better."

"This week we're going to read the Bible the way early Christians did. Back then a lot of people couldn't read, so they had the Bible read to them out loud. So that's what we're going to do. We're going to read together a longer passage of the Bible, so we can experience the whole story. This is really simple: you just take a longer story and read it straight through, either with a friend or by yourself, and then reflect on what it says and what it means."

"The story we're going to read is the story that we celebrate on Easter every year. It's John 18-20 (all three chapters)."

Read John 18-20. Go around the circle and each person read a larger chunk, like 10 verses so it's not so choppy. When you're not reading, try closing your eyes and visualize the story in your head.

A couple questions for reflection afterwards.

1.) Was there anything you really could identify with? Anything you thought was interesting or really meaningful?

2.) Look at the last verse we read, John 20:31. It's the reason John wrote down the story of Jesus. What do you think it means to believe? How can you have life by believing all this? (This is a great place to share the Gospel, familia leaders!!)

Wrap up. *"This is just one way you can read the Bible. Over the next few weeks we'll be looking at other ways to read the Bible. I want to encourage you to find some time this week you can try this on your own with a friend or two. If you want a suggestion of what to read, try Acts 1-2."* (Show them where that is if they don't know. This is something you should set the example on. Set a time later in the week when you'll do this with a couple people from your familia. It's a great way to spend some quality time with them.)