

FACILITATOR GUIDE



ENGAGE
THE
WHOLE
CHURCH
IN THE
BIBLE

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Welcome to Bible Engagement Project!

This guide was designed to help you understand and implement the *Listen* curriculum. In it, you will find step-by-step instructions, examples, and tips to help you promote greater Bible engagement personally and as a facilitator for any age level.

As you navigate through this guide, we hope you will understand and embrace the importance of engaging with the Bible both as a community and on your own. May God use His Word in your life to promote personal growth. May the Holy Spirit also use you to create momentum and ignite a fresh passion for God's Word in many lives.



Bible Engagement Project Philosophy

Around the world, leaders like you want people to encounter Jesus, grow spiritually, and experience real transformation. But as you know, this kind of transformation generally takes place by meeting Jesus in the pages of Scripture.

The problem is statistics show that Bible engagement is at an all-time low. Many people have access to the Bible, but few regularly engage with it. Some find the Bible intimidating and confusing. Others simply lack the hunger for the Word and can't see the value of reading the Bible daily.

This needs to change.

Bible Engagement Project equips churches with digital Bible study resources to help people read and understand Scripture. As we utilize these resources and engage with the Bible, people can become more like Jesus and live radically changed lives.

We believe this is an issue we cannot afford to ignore. Without a biblical world-view, future generations won't be able to discern between God's ways and the world's ways. This will likely lead to more stress and anxiety, increased family dysfunction, and confusion when faced with important moral issues.

But it doesn't have to be this way.

Imagine a church where people are zealous share their faith with others. Imagine a church with strong friendships, marriages, and families. Imagine a church rooted in the truth of Scripture, with hearts burning for Jesus.

Research shows that engaging with the Bible makes all the difference; it ensures believers fulfill Jesus' directive to His followers, the Great Commission, to go and make disciples. It's not enough to just have access to the Bible. We need people to engage with the Bible and listen to what the Holy Spirit is speaking to them.

Bible Engagement Project Process

The resources available through Bible Engagement Project are designed to intentionally move people from being unengaged to engaged fully with Scripture. This process is illustrated in the Road to Emmaus story found in Luke 24:13–35.

Two of Jesus' disciples are walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus, confused and dejected that Jesus has been crucified. They knew that Mary Magdalene had found Him alive at the tomb, but they didn't yet believe in His resurrection.

As they are walking on their way to Emmaus, Jesus joined them. They did not recognize Him, but listened as Jesus began to open up the Scriptures to them. It wasn't until they reached Emmaus that Jesus revealed Himself to them. After He disappeared, they immediately returned to Jerusalem to share the good news.

The discipleship process that's modeled in the Road the Emmaus story is the same process that Bible Engagement Project has adopted:

1. **Listen** to the story of the Bible.
2. **Learn** to understand the Bible in light of Jesus.
3. **Live** it out.

1. Listen to the story of the Bible.

Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?" Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. Luke 24:25–27

The disciples *listened* to Jesus as He walked through the Scriptures. It is through *listening* that these Scriptures become clear and that the death and resurrection of Jesus makes sense. It is through *listening* that the disciples came to understand we were created to have a close relationship with God, we ruined that closeness by sin, and God is restoring our relationship with Him through Jesus.

Listen curriculum helps people know how to approach God's Word with a different posture. The Bible isn't like any other book; it's God's revelation to man, Spirit-breathed, and the authority for faith and conduct.

Bible Engagement Project Process

Creator of heaven and earth, the Savior of humanity is going to speak to them, which means they need to come ready to *listen*. (2 Timothy 3:15–17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:21).

As you lead your group from Genesis to Revelation, encourage them to listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying through the story of the Bible.

2. Learn to understand the Bible in the light of Jesus.

But they begged him, “Stay the night with us, since it is getting late.” So he went home with them. As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared! They said to each other, “Didn’t our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?” Luke 24:29–32

When Jesus revealed Himself to the disciples, it was as if a veil were removed from their eyes. Here is how theologian Darrell L. Bock puts it:

They can now appreciate that He is with them. All of a sudden, the entire discussion on the road makes sense. Like a lost key found or a huge mystery solved, the direction of recent events becomes clear and the way to understand life anew is opened up.¹

Because the disciples had seen the resurrected Savior with their very own eyes, the story of the Bible they listened to on the road to Emmaus was now fully understood. All made sense in light of Jesus.

As people engage with the Bible, encourage them to understand the Bible in light of Jesus. When we understand who Jesus is, everything makes sense. Scripture comes alive just as it did for the two disciples.

3. Live it out!

The disciples saw Jesus. They realized that He was alive! So, what did they do? Did they keep this knowledge a secret? Did they simply discuss it among themselves? By no means! Instead they immediately went to share the good news. It says in verse 33:

¹ Darrell L. Bock, Luke, The IVP New Testament Commentary Series 3 (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1994), 385.

Bible Engagement Project Process

And within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven disciples and the others who had gathered with them, who said, "The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter." Then the two from Emmaus told their story of how Jesus had appeared to them as they were walking along the road, and how they had recognized him as he was breaking the bread. Luke 24:33–35

The disciples had urgency! It says they left within the same hour. They began walking the seven miles on the same road again. The urgency of sharing the good news of Jesus' resurrection compelled them to leave immediately.

Understanding the Bible in light of Jesus creates a desire to share the good news, to live it out!

The disciples *listened* to Jesus as He walked through the Scriptures. It is through *listening* that these Scriptures become clear and that the death and resurrection of Jesus makes sense. It is through *listening* that the disciples came to understand we were created to have a close relationship with God, we ruined that closeness by sin, and God is restoring our relationship with Him through Jesus.

Listen curriculum helps people know how to approach God's Word with a different posture. The Bible isn't like any other book; it's God's revelation to man, Spirit-breathed, and the authority for faith and conduct. When opening the Bible, Christians should come with the expectation that the God of the universe, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Savior of humanity is going to speak to them, which means they need to come ready to *listen*. (2 Timothy 3:15–17; Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:21).

Listen:

A New Posture for Engaging with the Bible

The first step of Bible engagement is listening to the story of the Bible. This happens when you invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you through Scripture. Each time you approach God's Word, remember that it is powerful and living. The Bible can transform our lives, comfort, admonish, and guide us in any situation (Hebrews 4:12).

We don't go to the Bible just to read it—we engage with the Bible to *listen* to what the Holy Spirit is speaking to us. *Listen* curriculum was designed to help you and your group do just that.

1. ***Listen is age aligned.*** Preschool, kids, youth, and adults navigate the same Scriptures at the same time, which encourages families to grow in their faith together. Additionally, family devotions equip families for discipleship at home and guides conversation regarding that week's Bible reading.

Appendix A includes the *Listen* Scope and Sequence, which shows how the age-aligned content ensures all ages study the same principles at the same time. To see the similarities and differences between each age level, see Appendix B for the *Listen* Overview Chart.

2. ***Listen walks through the entire Bible.*** In forty sessions (ten volumes of four sessions each), *Listen* takes people from Genesis to Revelation, which creates a solid biblical foundation.

This systematic approach helps illustrate the complete and redemptive story of the Bible. Additionally, it encourages individuals to abandon the practice of selecting Scripture in a piecemeal pattern, leading to better application.

3. ***Listen is delivered through an app.*** Videos, discussion questions, personal devotions, and so much more are available for all age groups on the app, which makes it easier to engage with Scripture, build community, and learn together.

Growing as You Lead:

Taking the Journey with *Listen*

A Deeper Dive: How can I ensure that I grow in the Lord and His Word as I lead others?

We celebrate your willingness to say yes to Jesus' invitation to be a facilitator. Understand that ultimately the Holy Spirit is the Teacher and will help you as you unpack the Scripture every week. We are certain that as you lead others in engaging with Scripture you will grow in your personal engagement with the Bible and deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh (John 1:1).

Wherever you are on this journey of Scripture reading and study, know that the God who has called you will continue to prepare you (Ephesians 4:11-13). Thank you for your commitment to God's Word, leading others, and being a lifelong learner. We hope the following suggestions help as you journey through Scripture.

Start with the suggested step-by-step guide for reading Scripture.²

1. **Read:** You cannot love something you don't know. If you have not developed the spiritual habit of reading the Bible daily, that is your first step. Similar to learning how to ride a bicycle, you can start engaging with the Scriptures with training wheels. Instead of beginning an aggressive Bible reading plan all at once, start with ten minutes a day. Just like riding a bike, reading the Bible is a skill you learn. Start small with consistency, and watch yourself grow.
2. **Pray:** As you read the Bible, you will find it is easy to resonate with passages like Psalm 23 and the Lord's Prayer. Praying through Scripture can give you words for things that are difficult to express on your own. Insert your name or "I" into the prayers you read in the Scriptures. Pray that the Lord would help you respond to passages you read.
3. **Meditate:** As you read, look for one verse to focus on. Go back to that verse and fill your mind with the words. Take a moment to slow down and repeat the verse over and over again. Remind yourself throughout the day to read that verse again.
4. **Study:** What is the difference between reading the Word and studying it? Study requires you to open the notes app on your phone or to write down what the passage says, what it means, and what it means to you.

² Content creator: Dr. Jim Bradford, Lead Pastor of Central Assembly of God, Springfield, Missouri

Focus on what is important.

Research shows us that the life of someone who engages with Scripture four or more times a week looks radically different from the life of someone who does not. In fact, the lives of Christians who do not engage with the Bible most days of the week are statistically the same as the lives of nonbelievers.

Someone who engages with the Bible four or more times a week is:

- **228% more likely to share their faith with others.**
- **407% more likely to memorize Scripture.**
- **59% less likely to view pornography.**
- **30% less likely to struggle with loneliness.**

Here is what this research tells us: Practically speaking, it is important that people engage with the Bible at least four times a week. Maybe you are just beginning this journey of consistent Bible engagement. Don't be discouraged if you miss a day; pick up where you left off! We want to encourage you to focus on the attainable goal of reading the Bible at least four times a week. We know that as you incorporate this practice four times a week, you will be transformed!

Seek accountability.

Growth is more attainable when we are in relationship with someone who is keeping us accountable for our goals. It is so much easier to remember to read the Bible when reading it in community. Enlist someone to keep you accountable for reading Scripture. Even better, encourage each other as you engage with the Bible. Accountability creates consistency in our Bible engagement and helps us learn from others' perspectives.

Listen Preschool

3-5 year olds



Introduction

Thank you for your commitment to facilitate *Listen* Preschool. We know that as you read this section, you will feel equipped and empowered to use the curriculum with your kids. This section includes an overview of the components and practical tips to lead preschoolers effectively. We believe as you listen to Scripture in community with others, kids will develop a solid foundation built on the Bible.

The *Listen* curriculum is delivered through the Bible Engagement Project app. From the app, you'll be able to play the videos, lead your group, and teach the Bible lesson. There are some resources that may need to be printed or downloaded like the Activity Page, videos, and slides. You can access those at BibleEngagementProject.com/Downloads.

Since our church has purchased a subscription, the app is available free on any iOS or Android device by searching for "Bible Engagement Project."

Listen was designed to be easy for you to use through the functionality of the app, the downloadable assets, and the scripted format of the curriculum. As you prepare to facilitate your first session, there are a few terms you should be familiar with.

1. Session: A session is one week of the curriculum

2. Volume: A volume includes four sessions. *Listen* is a forty-week curriculum that is broken down into ten volumes.

3. Faith Fact: The Faith Fact is the primary learning outcome of the session. Each session has a different Faith Fact that the kids explore. For example, the Faith Fact in Session 1.2 is "God is my Creator."

4. Faith Verse: The Faith Verse is the Bible verse that kids memorize. Each volume introduces a new Faith Verse.

5. Large Group: Large Group is when all preschoolers learn together.

6. Small Group: This time is designed for preschoolers to move into small groups for more interactive and relational learning. There are four different types of circle time.

Large Group and Small Group

Each session is broken up into three parts: Preservice Activities, Large Group, and Small Group. The curriculum also includes an optional Rules Video, two videos that teach the Bible story and theme, slides, and downloadable pages.

Preservice Activities

The Preservice Activities are an optional tool to capture preschoolers' attention and introduce the theme. During the Preservice Activities, the theme is introduced through a toy or some other object. For example, in Session 1.2, toy animals are used to show that God is the Creator. This is a great activity for kids to do as they are dropped off by their parent or guardian.



TIP:

If the Preservice Activities are not utilized before the service, they can be used as an alternative Circle Time activity.

Each session will also have a themed snack option. Remember to be mindful of allergies and ask parents ahead of time if their kid has any food allergies.



TIP:

While the snack option is placed during Preservice Activities, feel free to incorporate Snack Time during your normal allotted time for snack.

Large Group

After Preservice Activities, all the preschoolers gather for Large Group time, which includes the Introduction, Bible Time with videos and Faith Verse, Worship, and Closing. The two Bible Lesson Videos feature Lizzy and her grandpa, and show kids how the Bible connects with everyday life.

Note: There are two videos utilized during Large Group. It is important to use them in the order presented: Bible Lesson Video A and Video B.

Introduction: Greet the kids with the provided script. Included in the curriculum is a Rules Video (optional) to help kids get comfortable and understand the expectations for the session. Watch this after your greeting. Research shows that children benefit from repetition. Reinforcement of positive behavior that children should display is always encouraged.



TIP:

To help preschoolers understand the schedule for the session and the progression of time, find clever ways to visually display the schedule. Create a chart with removable Velcro® labels to show your progression through the session. As you complete a portion of the session, use a small checkmark with Velcro® to show it's been completed.

Bible Time: Bible Time teaches the Bible story through video to preschoolers. The Bible Story videos are designed to capture preschoolers' attention. Our main character,

- **TIP:**
Lizzy, connects the Faith Fact with the Bible story while working in her special room. Kids will help Lizzy find clues to help tell the Bible story.
- **TIP:**
After viewing the Bible Story Video, take time to ask questions to see how much kids have understood and if there is anything you should clarify or touch on again.

One of the goals of the Bible Time is for kids to explore the session's Faith Fact. To help kids identify the Faith Fact, we use the Faith Fact Sound before repeating it together. The Faith Fact Sound video is provided in the app.

- **TIP:**
Instead of using the Faith Fact Sound on your mobile device, you could use a physical bell.
- **TIP:**
Assign the Faith Fact Sound/bell to a different kid every week to increase engagement. Hand the bell to the kid when it is time for the Faith Fact and have them return it to you. You will utilize the Faith Fact sound at least four times in each lesson.

Worship: Worship is a part of who we are, not just something we do. Model how to approach and act during worship. If you are worshipping, your kids will worship, too. While there aren't songs included in the curriculum, it does provide some great suggestions.

Avoid introducing new songs too often; once per month is plenty. Once kids know a song, they are more likely to enter worship rather than wondering what the next phrase or motions are. Consistency is key in creating a worship experience for kids.

Faith Verse: The Faith Verse is the Bible verse that preschoolers memorize and is introduced via video. Because repetition is a key part of learning for preschoolers, new verses are only introduced in session 1 of each volume so that kids have four sessions to learn the Faith Verse. For longer Faith Verses, the first portion is taught in Sessions 1 and 2 with the entire verse being taught in Sessions 3 and 4.

Closing: Before dismissing kids to Small Group time, the Closing provides one last time to remind kids about what they have heard and to review the Faith Fact.

Small Group

While there are lots of fun, interactive elements within Large Group time, the kids are sitting for most of that segment. At this point, they are ready to move around and be a little more active. From Large Group, we dismiss the kids into Small Group time. The curriculum provides four circle times or stations, and they each include a short activity for a small group to complete. Each circle focuses on a different learning style to keep all preschoolers engaged.

To ensure we're engaging multiple learning styles, the activities vary, but will reinforce the Bible story, Faith Fact, and Faith Verse. The first three circle times remain consistent across sessions. For example, the Feet-to-Floor Game is always an activity that involves movement; however, the game itself changes each session. The fourth circle time will address a different learning style each session, based on what best fits that session's content.

Some circle times use a Countdown Video to time the activity.

There are a few ways you could structure the Small Group time.

- Depending on the size of your church, it may be beneficial to have the circles in different rooms rather than keeping the kids in the same room. Some of the activities could be distracting for other groups working on quieter activities.
- Keep in mind that groups should be no more than ten kids to one leader.
- If you have multiple groups, it will be easiest to rotate from circle to circle until each group has done all four activities.
- If you only have one group, we encourage you to still move your kids to different parts of the room for each activity. This will help reset their attention and get kids moving.

→ TIPS:

- Assign each group a color or animal so they know to which group they belong.
- We suggest that kids should be assigned to the same leader every session. This will help to foster a relationship between the kid and leader as well as create consistency.
- Prepare a tub with the session materials for each group so that each group has all the necessary supplies, for example crayons, scissors, copies of the Activity Page, etc.

Let's take a closer look at the circle times.

Circle 1: Group Connection. This circle time is designed for kids to connect relationally through a simple game. This time reinforces the theme through play. Encourage all kids to participate and connect.

→ **TIP:**

Before beginning circle times, remind kids of Luke 6:31, “Do to others as you would like them to do to you.” For example, remind kids about taking turns, being kind, not laughing if someone falls during a game, being a good friend, cheering for one another, etc.

Circle 2: Hands-On Learning. Hands-on Learning uses an Activity Page that reinforces the Bible story. This can be a coloring page, puzzle, sequencing activity, craft, or something similar that kids can work on themselves with minimal support.

→ **TIP:**

Be aware that kids’ motor skills are still developing at this age, so you’ll need to adjust accordingly for your group (e.g., holding crayons for kids, helping them with craft items.).

Circle 3: Feet-to-Floor Game. The Feet-to-Floor Game gets kids active and moving while reinforcing the Bible story, Faith Fact, or Faith Verse. Ensure there is ample space between kids and groups, and adjust the furnishings accordingly.

→ **TIP:**

Place markings on the floor throughout the space to designate where kids should stand to complete the activity. Consider using painter’s tape to form an X on the ground.

Circle 4: Creative Time. The learning style incorporated into the fourth circle time changes each session, but the activity will always relate back to the Bible story.

→ **TIP:**

As mentioned above, if you did not use the Preservice Activities, consider using them as an additional circle time.

Concluding the Session

When parents or guardians pick up their preschoolers each session, they probably ask, “Did you have fun today?” or “What did you learn?” We can make sure our time with the preschoolers is fun, but it is more important to equip and empower kids and their parents with the tools they need to apply what they have learned.

The session opener has a huge impact on an individual’s ability to remember information or learn. Similarly, the conclusion is vital to learning. The following elements will ensure you have a memorable conclusion to the session.

Faith Fact Recap: As kids are leaving for the day, reinforce what was covered by repeating the Faith Fact. Encourage kids to share with their family what they learned. This will also help families have great conversations as they head home and throughout the rest of the week.

→ **TIP:**

As you reinforce the Faith Fact, take this time to do an informal assessment regarding how much the kids learned. Based on their response, modify your approach next time. Consider using a game like hopscotch, Hot Potato, etc. to review the Faith Fact and keep kids engaged.

Activity Page: The Activity Page reinforces the Faith Fact, Faith Verse, and Bible story and is completed during the session. This page also reminds parents or guardians about the Family Devotions available on the Bible Engagement Project app. Be sure each kid takes home their Activity Page.

Family Devotions: Family Devotions, available to parents/guardians on the app, are designed to engage kids with the Bible at least four times a week. These devotions are a great way to teach kids how to engage with the Bible personally and involve the parents/guardians in family discipleship. Family Devotions create conversations in the home around the Bible. Encourage parents to implement these Family Devotions into their weekly routine.

The App: Remind parents or guardians about the Family Devotions for the week in the app and encourage them to use the devotions to reinforce what their kid has heard in the session. Be sure you know how the app works so you can answer questions that parents may have. If you don't have the answer, consult a designated person at your church or see contact information in [Appendix C](#) of this guide.

→ **TIP:**

Point parents to available app instructions here: BibleEngagementProject.com/Launch

Be Available: Make yourself available as preschoolers are being picked up to help answer parents' questions and clarify what their kid experienced that day.

Engage with Parents: Call, text, or email families through the week with encouragement, a blessing parents could speak over kids, a question they could ask at dinner, or a fun activity they could do as a family.

→ **TIP:**

Kids love to get mail. Consider sending them a piece of mail every quarter or a birthday card on their birthday.

Practical Tips

As you continue to unpack *Listen* and use it with your kids, here are some things to consider as well as some helpful tips.

- Consider your church's calendar for the year in order to maintain age alignment. Be in communication with other leaders to ensure consistency across age groups. For example, if adults are in Volume 1 Session 2, pre-school should be in the same volume and session.
- Determine technology needs and adapt accordingly:
 - What will be placed on a large screen?
 - What can be shown on tablets or phones?
- Determine how you see Large Group and Small Group working in your ministry context. Depending on your allotted time per meeting, consider breaking up Large Group and Small Group. For example, Large Group could be done on a Sunday morning and Small Group could be done midweek or during Adult small group. If you are not utilizing both Large and Small Group segments in one meeting time, you will have to recap the Bible story and reshoot the video before Small Group circle time.

App Assistance

Listen is delivered through the Bible Engagement Project app, which can be downloaded free on any iOS or Android device for people whose church has purchased a subscription.

- For help setting up your group or using the app, check out the step-by-step instructions in the appendix of this guide or at BibleEngagementProject.com/Launch.
- If you have questions about the app, consult a designated person at your church or see contact information in the [Appendix C](#) of this guide.

Curriculum Facilitation

- Be Prepared: Those that fail to plan, plan to fail. Make sure you go over the session, watch the videos, and are familiar with the content. Knowing the content will ensure that you have minimal dependence on your notes and provide greater engagement with the kids.
- Supplies: Read over the session early in the week and gather any supplies needed. To download session videos, slides, and printables, visit: BibleEngagementProject.com/Downloads.
- Prayer: Involve kids in praying for one another. If kids ask for prayer, assign other kids to pray for them right after it is mentioned. Consider keeping a journal to review prayer requests and celebrate praise reports. It bolsters kids' faith that God hears us and answers us when we pray.
- Be Okay with Silence: When asking questions, allow time for kids to think and process. Don't offer your insights or answers until several kids have offered theirs. Where possible, ask more questions to obtain further insights from kids.

Listen Kids

K-6th Grade



Introduction

Thank you for your commitment to facilitate *Listen* Preschool. We know that as you read this section, you will feel equipped and empowered to use the curriculum with your kids. This section includes an overview of the components and practical tips to lead preschoolers effectively. We believe as you listen to Scripture in community with others, kids will develop a solid foundation built on the Bible.

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4. Faith Verse: The Faith Verse is the Bible verse that kids memorize. Each volume introduces a new Faith Verse.

5. Large Group: Large Group is when all preschoolers learn together.

6. Small Group: This time is designed for preschoolers to move into small groups for more interactive and relational learning. There are four different types of circle time.

Large Group and Small Group

Each session is set up in two parts: Large Group and Small Group. The curriculum includes videos to reinforce the theme, an optional Rules Video, scripts to teach the lesson, slides, and downloadable pages.

Large Group

To begin, the kids gather for Large Group time, which includes an Introduction, Game, Worship, Bible Lesson with video, Prayer and Response, and a concluding Video Wrap-Up.

Introduction: Greet the kids with the provided script and introduce the Faith Fact. Included in the curriculum is a Rules Video (optional) to help kids get comfortable and understand the expectations for the session. Watch this after your greeting. Research shows that kids benefit from repetition which is why the Rules Video is utilized every week to reinforce positive behavior.

→ TIP:

To help kids understand the schedule for the session and the progression of time, find clever ways to visually display the schedule. Create a chart with removable Velcro® labels to show your progression through the session. As you complete a portion of the session, use a small checkmark with Velcro® to show it's been completed.

Game: Studies show that kids learn best when they play, so there are activities and games built into the session to help engage kids and reinforce the Bible lesson. Some games use a Countdown Video to time the game.

Worship: Worship is a part of who we are, not just something we do. Model how to approach and act during worship. If you are worshipping, your kids will worship, too. While there aren't songs included in the curriculum, it does provide some great suggestions.

Avoid introducing new songs too often; once per month is plenty. Once kids know a song, they are more likely to enter worship rather than wondering what the next phrase or motions are. Consistency is key in creating a worship experience for kids.

Bible Lesson with Video: The Bible Lesson is scripted and is reinforced with slides, activities, and a video to enhance kids' learning. Watch the videos and review the slides ahead of time so you can smoothly transition into the Bible Lesson.

**TIPS:**

- Setting time aside to be familiar with the script is essential to effectively communicate the biblical principles of the lesson. It is not recommended that you read the Bible Lesson to the kids.
- Open your Bible for the Bible Lesson. Give kids time to get their Bibles and find the passage where the story is found.
- Allow kids to participate throughout the session by involving them in the Bible story.
- Model what Scripture engagement looks like for your kids by personalizing that day's Bible story and sharing what you learned when preparing for the session.

Bible Story: This portion of the Bible Lesson is specifically designed to teach the Bible story. There is a script provided you can use along with suggestions for engaging kids with the story. To help kids connect the story to the Bible, open your Bible as you teach and give kids time to look in their Bible and find the passage.

Teaching Time: Teaching Time highlights the Faith Verse, which is the Bible verse kids memorize. Use this time to help kids understand how this verse applies to their life. There is also a video with actions to help kids learn the Faith Verse.

Prayer and Response: The Holy Spirit is a far better Teacher than any of us will ever be. This section allows kids to have focused time with God as they invite Him to speak to them personally. The curriculum provides some guidance regarding prayer and suggested worship songs to play during this time.

**TIPS:**

- Model for kids how we can use God's Word to pray.
- Provide kids with a template for prayer. One example would be creating a graphic/poster that uses five fingers to help them remember how to pray: praise God, ask for forgiveness, thank God, pray for others, pray for yourself.

Video Wrap-Up: End Large Group time with the Video Wrap-up before dismissing kids to Small Group time.

**TIP:**

Be sure to have a well-structured plan for dismissal into small groups, i.e., calling by group, colors, Small Group name, etc.

Small Group

The goal of Small Group time is to connect kids to the Word of God and to each other. Each of the following activities are led by the small group leader: Group Connection, Bible Lesson Recap, Group Discussion, Application and Response, Make It a Habit, Prayer, Faith Verse Review, Faith Verse Fun, and Create Activity.

→ **TIP:**

- We suggest that kids are assigned to the same leader every week. This will help to foster a relationship between the kid and leader, and create consistency.
- Be sure each small group leader has all the supplies they need prior to the session. Consider preparing tubs for each group.

Group Connection: Kids sometimes get lost in larger groups. Group Connection encourages kids, even those who normally sit on the sidelines, to connect with one another through a simple activity.

→ **TIP:**

Before beginning Group Connection, remind kids of Luke 6:31, “Do to others as you would like them to do to you.” For example, remind kids about being kind, not laughing if someone says something unusual, being a good friend, cheering for one another, being a good listener etc. Model what healthy connections look like.

Bible Lesson Recap: Use the suggested script to quickly review the Bible Lesson and Faith Fact in preparation for discussion.

→ **TIP:**

- Invite kids to help you review the Bible Lesson by acting it out or using toys.
- Consider a think-pair-share: ask kids to share with a partner and then share with the group.

Group Discussion: This section allows kids to express their thoughts, emotions, and feelings as they apply the Bible Lesson to their life. Be slow to talk and quick to ask questions. Questions marked with an * are designed for more conversation. Adjust the questions based on the age or maturity of your group.

→ **TIP:**

To keep the group engaged and respectful during this time, consider pre-assigning partners for kids to listen to and report what they heard. For example, if Jose and Mark are partners, Mark shares what Jose says and Jose shares what Mark says. Be sure to model this for kids so they understand.

Application and Response: To conclude Group Discussion, remind kids how the Bible story and Faith Fact applies to everyday life. Make the provided script your own.

Make It a Habit: During this section, encourage kids to brainstorm a simple visual to remind them of the Faith Fact. For example, since the Faith Fact in Session 1.2 focuses on God as Creator, kids might say, “Every time we see a tree, we will remember that God is my Creator.”

→ **TIP:**

Make it a Habit helps kids stay engaged with God's Word throughout the week as they identify the specified object. This will help them recall how they can apply God's Word.

Prayer: Take the time to pray for each kid. Kids may not remember the Faith Fact or group activity ten years from now, but they will remember how much you cared for them!

Faith Verse Review: Review the Faith Verse with the kids through the activity or review of the Faith Verse Slide.

Create Activity: This activity is another way to reinforce what was taught by being creative. Encourage kids by asking a lot of questions. Guard against being prescriptive. Giving kids creative license helps them express their feelings and emotions, and appeals to several learning styles.

Concluding the Session

When parents or guardians pick up their kids each session, they probably ask "Did you have fun today?" or "What did you learn?" We can make sure our time with the kids is fun, but it is more important to equip and empower kids and their parents with the tools to apply what they have experienced.

The session opener has a huge impact on an individual's ability to remember information or learn. Similarly, the conclusion is vital to learning. The following elements will ensure you have a memorable conclusion to the session.

Faith Fact Recap: As kids are leaving for the day, reinforce what was covered by repeating the Faith Fact. Encourage kids to share with their family what they learned. This will also help families have great conversations as they head home and throughout the rest of the week.

→ **TIP:**

As you reinforce the Faith Fact, take this time to do an informal assessment regarding how much the kids learned. Based on their response, modify your approach next time. Consider doing a game like hopscotch, Hot Potato, or an online game function like Kahoot or Jeopardy, etc. to review the Faith Fact and keep kids engaged.

Activity Page: The Activity Page reinforces the Faith Fact, Faith Verse, and Bible story and is completed during the session. This page also reminds parents or guardians about the Family Devotions available on the Bible Engagement Project app. Be sure each kid takes home their Activity Page.

Family Devotions: Family Devotions, available to parents/guardians on the app, are designed to engage kids with the Bible at least four times a week. These devotions are a great way to teach

kids how to engage with the Bible personally and involve the parents/guardians in family discipleship. Family Devotions create conversations in the home around the Bible. Encourage parents to implement these Family Devotions into their weekly routine.

The App: Remind parents or guardians about the Family Devotions for the week in the app and encourage them to use the devotions to reinforce what their kid has learned. Be sure you know how the app works, so you can answer questions that parents may have. If you don't have the answer, consult a designated person at your church or see contact information in the [Appendix C](#) of this guide.



TIP:

Point parents to available app instructions here:
BibleEngagementProject.com/Launch

Be Available: Make yourself available as kids are being picked up to help answer parents' questions and clarify what their kid experienced that day.

Engage with Parents: Call, text, or email families through the week with encouragement, a blessing parents could speak over kids, a question parents could ask at dinner, or a fun activity they could do as a family.



TIP:

Kids love to get mail. Consider sending them a piece of mail every quarter or a birthday card on their birthday.

Practical Tips

As you continue to unpack Listen and use it with your kids, here are some things to consider as well as some helpful tips.

- Consider your church's calendar for the year in order to maintain age alignment. Be in communication with other leaders to ensure consistency across age groups. For example, if adults are in Volume 1 Session 2, kids should be in the same volume and session (1.2).
- Determine technology needs and adapt accordingly:
 - What will be placed on a large screen?
 - What can be shown on tablets or phones?
- Determine how you see Large Group and Small Group working in your ministry context. Depending on your allotted time per meeting, consider breaking up Large Group and Small Group. For example, Large Group could be done on a Sunday morning and Small Group could be done midweek or during Adult small groups. If you are not utilizing both Large and Small Group segments in one meeting time, you will have to recap the Bible story and reshoot the video before Small Group time.

App Assistance

- Listen is delivered through the Bible Engagement Project app, which can be downloaded free on any iOS or Android device for people whose church has purchased a subscription.
- For help setting up your group or using the app, check out the step-by-step instructions in the [Appendix C](#) of this guide or at BibleEngagementProject.com/Launch.
- If you have questions about the app, consult a designated person at your church or see contact information in [Appendix C](#) of this guide.

Curriculum Facilitation

- Be Prepared: Those that fail to plan, plan to fail. Make sure you go over the session, watch the videos, and are familiar with the content. Knowing the content will ensure that you have minimal dependence on your notes and provide greater engagement with the kids.
- Supplies: Read over the session early in the week and gather any supplies needed. To download session videos, slides, and printables, visit: BibleEngagementProject.com/Downloads.
- Prayer: Involve kids in praying for one another. If kids ask for prayer, assign other kids to pray for them right after it is mentioned. Consider keeping a journal to review prayer requests and celebrate praise reports. It bolsters kids' faith that God hears us and answers us when we pray.
- Be Okay with Silence: When asking questions, allow time for kids to think and process. Don't offer your insights or answers until several kids have offered theirs. Where possible, ask more questions to obtain further insights from kids.

Listen Youth

Middle and High School



Introduction

Thank you for your commitment to facilitate *Listen* Youth. We know that as you read this section, you will feel equipped and empowered to use the curriculum with your students. This section includes an overview of the components and practical tips to lead students effectively. We believe that as you listen to Scripture in community with others, students will develop a solid foundation built on the Bible.

The *Listen* curriculum is delivered through the Bible Engagement Project app. From the app, you'll be able to play the videos, lead your group, and teach the session. There are some resources that may need to be downloaded like the videos and slides. You can access those at BibleEngagementProject.com/Downloads.

Since our church has purchased a subscription, the app is available free on any iOS or Android device by searching for Bible Engagement Project.

Listen was designed to be easy for you to use through the functionality of the app and the scripted format of the curriculum. As you prepare to facilitate your first session, there are a few terms you should be familiar with.

1. Session: A session is one week of the curriculum

2. Volume: A volume includes four sessions. Listen is a forty-week curriculum that is broken down into ten volumes.

3. Listen in Community: This is the time that your small group or class meets together to engage with the Bible through a video, reading Scripture, and discussion.

4. Listen on your own: Listen provides personal devotions that students complete throughout the week.

Listen in Community

Every session includes an opening activity, leader content, questions that introduce the theme and Scriptures, and concluding elements. Everything you'll need to lead the *Listen in Community* section is found within *Listen* Youth, Leader in the Bible Engagement Project app.

Opening

An opening is one of the most important components of any session. With attention spans decreasing and distractions increasing, it's important to grab the group's attention as quickly as possible. This is why every session includes both Engage and Watch, in which students can interact, do multiple things to retain attention, and watch a video that illustrates that day's Scripture theme.

Engage: The purpose of this segment is to create a welcoming environment where students feel comfortable participating.

Welcome. Welcoming students will help get things started and students engaged. Introduce new students, learn names, and/or ask a simple question every student can answer. Try to make sure each student responds with something. Creating a warm, welcoming environment will get them talking about more important things later in the session.

→ **TIP:**

Some students may prefer not to participate at the beginning especially if they are new. Be sensitive to personality types and be sure not to draw attention to those students.

Opening Prayer. Each session has an opening prayer that involves asking God for help in listening to and understanding His Word

Introduction. During this time, you'll ask a discussion question and introduce that session's content.

→ **TIP:**

Fill in any gaps in content or memory for those who are new to the group or those who weren't there for the previous session.

Group Activity. This section encourages each student to get involved. The activity will help to illustrate an important point or principle from the session. This is a fun element which will help set the stage for learning. When asking the questions and unpacking how the topic applies to their lives, allow plenty of time for students to interact. Wait patiently and allow more than one student to speak. Don't just take one answer and move on.

Watch: Students live in a video-driven world. The provided videos are creative and thought provoking. Make sure you preview the video and are familiar with the content.

**TIP:**

Knowing that church size and equipment capability varies depending on the context, consider summarizing the video in your own words.

Main Session Components

In today's culture, many students prefer to discover truth on their own rather than being told what to believe. That is why the Listen Youth sessions are structured with questions first and answers second. Help guide students to discover the truth of the Bible on their own and listen to what the Holy Spirit is speaking to them through Scripture. Be slow to speak and quick to ask questions.

Consider. The body of the session begins with a component called Consider, which introduces the Bible story. Read the provided Scripture or ask students to read. Ask the questions provided and wait patiently for students to answer. As a youth leader, you will have the scripted answers included in the curriculum for some questions. Allow a majority of students the opportunity to share before speaking.

Several Scriptures will be used in this section from the Old and New Testaments, which helps students realize that the Bible is one story and applicable to their lives. Remember, this is the main component of the session. If you get to nothing else, be sure to spend time in Consider.

**TIPS:**

- When everyone has had an opportunity to share, use the scripted portions of *Listen* to affirm correct answers to questions and guide students with varied answers to a biblically based answer.
- Youth are impressionable and every household has its own unique set of guidelines. Therefore, if you share your opinion, lean on the Bible.

Reflect. The focus of this section is to help students reflect on and personalize the main theme. Similar to Consider, this session has several discussion questions. You are often provided with optional answers, if needed. There is also an optional segment you can use to help students better understand the main theme.

Concluding

The session ends with a scripted conclusion and an opportunity to take prayer requests. Students will remember how you begin and how you end. Be sure not to skip over the conclusion and end strongly.

Activate. It is not enough just to read Scripture and discuss. Students need to know the Bible is relevant for today and applicable to everyday life. This section reinforces the information experienced throughout the session and helps students to act on it. Questions will help the students process the information.

Conclusion. Prescribed information is provided to wrap up the session with a solid conclusion by restating the main idea, encouraging students to engage in personal devotions throughout the week, and prayer.

→ **TIP:**

If time allows, consider closing out the session with an informal assessment such as the 3-2-1 method. This will provide important information for you to know how much your students are growing in their knowledge of God's Word and to know if you have met your objective.

3-2-1 Method. This method helps summarize what is learned and identify questions students may have. Ask students to enter in the app or journal three things that they learned, two things that they found interesting/surprised them, and one question they have. Review their responses upon the conclusion of the session and respond to common questions. Respond privately to more sensitive questions.

Prayer Requests. Take the time for prayer to happen. Ask students for their needs, and even offer any needs you have. This lets students know they are not the only ones who need something from God. Ultimately, be genuine in your response and prayers.

→ **TIP:**

Consider keeping a prayer journal for your group to record students' prayer requests. This allows you to review requests as a leader, pray for students personally, and follow up with different needs. Additionally, you can document when prayers are answered. This will bolster your faith and your students' faith!

Salvation Opportunity. Even if you think you know the spiritual condition of your students, offer them a chance for the Holy Spirit to draw them into a relationship with Jesus through the Salvation Opportunity. It's there every session to be used as needed.

Listen on Your Own

Listen on Your Own provides five personal devotions to help students achieve the goal of increasing personal Bible engagement. Each devotion includes a passage of Scripture to read, along with several questions. Students can enter their response in the notes section of the app or in a journal. Encourage students to incorporate Scripture reading into their weekly habit so they can listen to what the Holy Spirit is speaking to them through the Bible. Listen on Your Own content is found within *Listen* Youth Student on the app.

Family Devotions: The curriculum provides devotions for all age groups. The Scripture passage covered in Listen in Community for Youth is the same passage covered in the Adult version. Encourage parents/guardians to implement Family Devotions into their weekly routine by doing personal devotions together. Family Devotions create conversations in the home around the Bible and encourage parents/guardians to disciple their student.

Practical Tips

As you continue to unpack *Listen* and use it with your students, here are some things to consider as well as some helpful tips.

- Consider your church's calendar for the year in order to maintain age alignment. Be in communication with other leaders to ensure consistency across age groups. For example, if adults are in Volume 1 Session 2, Youth should be in the same volume and session (1.2).
- Determine technology needs and adapt accordingly:
 - What will be placed on a large screen?
 - What can be shown on tablets or phones?

App Assistance

- Listen is delivered through the Bible Engagement Project app, which can be downloaded free on any iOS or Android device for people whose church has purchased a subscription.
- For help setting up your group or using the app, check out the step-by-step instructions in [Appendix C](#) of this guide or at BibleEngagementProject.com/Launch.
- If you have questions about the app, consult a designated person at your church or see contact information in [Appendix C](#) of this guide.
- If someone in your group does not have access to the app, consider screen mirroring or casting your phone to a TV screen so everyone can see the content or have them share with their neighbor. To ensure they can complete the personal devotions throughout the week, have them write down the Scriptures or take a picture of each day's devotion.

Curriculum Facilitation

- Be Prepared: Those that fail to plan, plan to fail. Make sure you go over the session, watch the videos, and are familiar with the content. Knowing the content will ensure you have minimal dependence on your notes and provide greater engagement with students.
- Have extra Bibles and journals available for first-time guests who may not have the app downloaded to their phone or who may not be registered yet. If someone new arrives at your group, loan them a Bible and journal or have them follow along with a neighbor. Make sure each student has the same version of the Bible, if possible. The New Living Translation (NLT) is used in the app.
- Be sure to honor everyone's time. Start and end on time.
- Don't feel like you need to have all the answers. If you don't have an answer to someone's question, let them know you will research it and get back to them. Better yet, research the question together!
- Be okay with silence. Allow time for students to think and process the questions. Don't offer your insights or the answers until students have had plenty time to give their input.
- As you make space for the Holy Spirit to speak to your students, model what it means to listen to Scripture as a leader.

Listen Adult



Introduction

Thank you for your commitment to facilitate *Listen* Adult. We know that as you read this section, you will feel equipped and empowered to use the curriculum with your small group. This section includes an overview of the components and practical tips to lead adults effectively. We believe that as you listen to Scripture in community with others, your small group will develop a solid foundation built on the Bible.

The *Listen* curriculum is delivered through the Bible Engagement Project app. From the app, you'll be able to play the videos, lead your group, and teach the session. Listen was designed to be easy for you to use through the functionality of the app and the scripted nature of the curriculum. As you prepare to facilitate your first session, here are a few defined terms to help you better understand what you will be teaching.

1. **Session:** A session is one week of the curriculum
2. **Volume:** A volume includes four sessions. *Listen* is a forty-week curriculum that is broken down into ten volumes.
3. **Listen in Community:** This is the time that your small group or class meets together to engage with the Bible through a video, reading Scripture, and discussion.
4. **Listen on your own:** *Listen* provides personal devotions that students complete throughout the week.

Listen in Community

Every session includes opening elements, main components that unpack Scripture and theme, and concluding elements.

Opening

An opening is one of the most important components of any session. With attention spans decreasing and distractions increasing, it's important to grab the group's attention as quickly as possible. This is why every session includes both Engage and Watch, in which the group interacts together and watches a video that illustrates that day's Scripture theme.

Engage: This element contextualizes that day's session and asks an introduction question to create a warm, welcoming environment where individuals feel comfortable participating.

Watch: The provided video invites people into the session's Bible story in a creative and thought-provoking way. Utilize the question to increase individual engagement.

Main Session Components

Listen Adult invites small groups to discover Scripture together through discussion instead of the typical lecture format of Bible studies. Help guide adults to discover the truth of the Bible on their own and listen to what the Holy Spirit is speaking to them through the Scriptures. Be slow to speak and quick to ask questions.

Consider: The body of the session begins with a component called Consider which reinforces the video and introduces the Bible story and theme for that session. Questions are dispersed throughout the section. As an Adult small group leader, read through this section and practice making the words your own.

What the Bible Says: This next segment allows your small group to walk through Scripture together. Invite small group members to participate by reading Scripture. As a leader, guide group discussion and utilize the provided summaries.

This segment is the core element of the gathering and invites people to listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to them in community. What the Bible Says leads the group into the deeper truths of Scripture, relational understanding of how the Scriptures connect to daily life, and hope for the future. Remember, this is the main component of the session. If you get to nothing else, be sure to spend time in What the Bible Says.

Did You Know?: In most sessions, there is a section entitled Did You Know? This section can supplement What the Bible Says by going deeper. Did You Know? can also be bonus content for those who want to learn more on their own time.



Concluding

At the conclusion of every session, there is a time of reflection, listening, and prayer.

Reflect: This portion provides a brief, scripted summary of the session. Begin concluding the session by reading this text.

Listen to God: This time is designed to be a personal moment with God to reflect on what has been said. After the text in Reflect has been shared, encourage everyone to be silent and listen to God for several minutes. Give them plenty of time to notate their responses to Personal Reflection Questions in the notes section of the app or in a journal. Silence may feel uncomfortable, but it is necessary for individuals to have time to reflect and hear what the Holy Spirit is speaking to them. This component will feel more natural as you do it every week.

Prayer Requests: When everyone has had the opportunity to listen to God, have a time of dedicated prayer with the group. This prayer can take many forms; be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and allow God to move during this prayerful time of agreement.

→ TIP:

Consider keeping a prayer journal for your group to record people's prayer requests. This allows you to review requests as a leader, pray for individuals personally, and follow up about different needs. Additionally, you can document when prayers are answered. This will bolster both your faith and your group's faith!

Listen on Your Own

As important as it is to Listen in Community, it is also important to Listen on Your Own. Dietrich Bonhoeffer in his book, *Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Faith in Community*, eloquently reminds us of the power of both.

“Let him who cannot be alone beware of community . . . Let him who is not in community beware of being alone . . . Each by itself has profound perils and pitfalls. One who wants fellowship without solitude plunges into the void of words and feelings, and the one who seeks solitude without fellowship perishes in the abyss of vanity, self-infatuation and despair.”

Research affirms Bonhoeffer's words. It shows us that there is a significant difference in the lives of those who read the Bible at least four times a week. They are more likely to reflect the fruit of the Spirit, share their faith with others, and volunteer in their church.

Listen on Your Own provides five personal devotions to help adults achieve the goal of increasing personal Bible engagement. Each devotion includes a passage of Scripture to read and questions to guide

reflection. Adults can enter their thoughts in the notes section of the app or in a journal. Encourage adults to incorporate Scripture reading into their weekly habit so they can listen to what the Holy Spirit is speaking to them through the Bible. These daily resources will expand the user's horizons of biblical truth, give them more compassion for those in their world, and deepen their boldness to share Christ with others.

Family Devotions: The curriculum provides devotions for all age groups. Although it is important to set aside personal time to listen to God, it is equally as important to participate in family devotions by engaging with the Bible together, modeling how to listen to God, and discussing what He is saying to the whole family. Encourage parents/guardians to implement Family Devotions into their weekly routine. Family Devotions create conversations in the home around the Bible and encourage parents/guardians to disciple their students and kids.

Family Devotions, as provided in the app, are designed to engage kids with the Bible at least four times a week. These devotions are a great way to teach kids how to engage with the Bible personally and involve parents/guardians in family discipleship.

The Scripture passage covered in Listen in Community for Adults is the same passage covered in Youth. Adults have their own personal devotions; so families with teens and/or could consider doing personal devotions together.

Practical Tips

As you continue to unpack *Listen* and use it with your small group, here are some things to consider as well as some helpful tips.

- Consider your church's calendar for the year in order to maintain age alignment. Be in communication with other leaders to ensure consistency across age groups. For example, if Adults are in Volume 1 Session 2, Youth, Kids, and Preschool should be in the same volume and session (1.2).
- Determine technology needs and adapt accordingly
 - What will be placed on a large screen?
 - What can be shown on tablets or phones?
- Build relationships with small group members by investing in them. Be sensitive to difficulties different members may be facing.
- Take into consideration small group leaders who may be leading for the first time. What additional direction, training, or advice do they need?
 - If you are brand-new to starting a small group, you may need to spend more time in the session opening, connecting to create an environment for fellowship and growth. Sensitivity will be important due to each person's economics, health factors, and current family issues.
 - For more tips on leading a small group, whether you have been leading for some time or are brand-new, check out the Bible Engagement Project Small Group Leader Training series available at BibleEngagementProject.com/Training.

App Assistance

- *Listen* is delivered through the Bible Engagement Project app, which can be downloaded free on any iOS or Android device for people whose church has purchased a subscription.
- For help setting up your group or using the app, check out the step-by-step instructions in your Attendee Packet or the this Facilitator Guide [Appendix C](#) at BibleEngagementProject.com/Launch.
- If you have questions about the app, contact the designated person in your church or Bible Engagement Project. The contact information for the Customer Relations team is in your Attendee Packet.
- If someone in your group does not have access to the app, consider screen mirroring or casting your phone to a TV screen so everyone can see the content or have them share with their neighbor. To ensure they can complete the personal devotions throughout the week, have them write down the Scriptures or take a picture of each day's devotion.

Curriculum Facilitation

- Make sure you go over the session, watch the video, and are familiar with the content. If you have to read the content, it takes away from the discussion. Consider making notecards or having notes on your phone to guide you as you deliver the content.
- Have extra Bibles and journals available for first-time guests who may not have the app downloaded on their phone or who may not be registered yet. If someone new arrives at your group, loan them a Bible and journal or have them follow along with a neighbor. Make sure each individual has the same version of the Bible, if possible. The New Living Translation (NLT) is used in the app.
- Be sure to honor everyone's time. Start and end on time.
- Don't feel like you have to have all the answers. If you don't have an answer to someone's question, let them know you will research it and get back to them. Better yet, research the question together!
- Be okay with silence. Allow time for people to think and process the questions. Don't offer your insights or the answers until several have offered theirs.
- As you make space for the Holy Spirit to speak to your group, model what it means to listen to Scripture as a leader.
- As individuals ask for prayer, involve them in praying for others.

Discipleship Relationships

At the core of discipleship is the individual disciple. One of Jesus' last commands (Matthew 28:19) to His disciples was an imperative to the first-century church and to us as well. To make disciples, inviting others to seek and serve the Jesus we follow, we need to first be disciples ourselves. A disciple is a lifelong follower and learner of Jesus Christ. Discipleship is the cyclical act of consistently developing disciples into disciple-makers through intentional spiritual formation.

The two key components of discipleship are **transformation** and **reproduction**, and they happen best in community. This is why both *Listen on Your Own* and *Listen in Community* are so important. Listen on Your Own ensures **transformation** is taking place as we are listening to what God is saying to us and Listen in Community is ensuring **reproduction** is occurring through disciple-making.

However, **reproduction** or disciple-making extends past small group time or a Sunday morning. Disciple-making should extend to those we interact with on a daily basis. Who is involved in your everyday life? Who are you interacting with regularly? Who is a part of your community?

These questions can guide you to discovering your discipleship relationships. As others invest in you, find people you can invest in, walk with through Scripture, and journey with through life's challenges. Be willing to engage in mutual accountability as a necessary component of discipleship; have a teachable spirit. Additionally, discipleship takes time. Consider the time investment and make room in your heart and schedule for this Jesus-inspired and commanded task.

For many people, family is the primary unit they interact with on a daily basis. As Chap Bettis states in his book, *The Disciple-Making Parent*, "Parenting is a commission to do all we can to raise our children to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ."³ He writes that the foundational parenting text is Matthew 28:18–20. The goal of parenting is not to produce children who are educated, have good jobs, and make us happy (again, all good things), but rather to develop adults who will serve Christ.

Relationship is foundational to discipleship and the family unit, regardless of household makeup, and is the perfect place to start. A parent or guardian is the closest relationship a child has; there is no better person to disciple children than a parent or guardian!

Some parents and guardians feel underqualified or think the church can disciple their children better, but Jesus commanded us to do it! If He has blessed you with children, rely on Him to give you what you need. At the end of the day "no one can take the place of Mom or Dad [Guardian] building spiritual truths into the lives of their children."⁴ If there are children or youth in your church who do not have Jesus-following parents, consider spiritually adopting them. Those who have older children or who do not have children at all, consider pairing them with kids who need a discipleship relationship. This is a great place for intergenerational discipleship to occur.

The *Listen* curriculum was not designed to simply increase adults' engagement with the Bible, but with the whole family! This is why the curriculum includes four family devotions for each session that everyone can do together. Because *Listen* is age-aligned curriculum, family devotions relate to the passage of Scripture and theme everyone experienced that week during children's church, youth group, or small group. These devotions are a great tool to help parents or guardians disciple their children.

As a leader, you will observe that families in your church vary in their engagement with the Bible and family devotions. *Listen* curriculum works for those who already engage in family devotions and those who are brand-new to the experience. Encourage attainable goals for those who are newer to incorporating family devotions and celebrate small wins. If a family is engaging with the Bible together once a week for the first time, that is a huge accomplishment! As they grow in their faith, greater engagement and resulting transformation will occur.

³Chap Bettis, *The Disciple-Making Parent* (Diamond Hill Publishing: n.p., 2016), 6.

⁴ Bettis, *Disciple-Making Parent*, 16.

Appendix A: Listen Scope and Sequence

VOLUME 1

THE BEGINNING

PSALM 119:11

SESSION 1: Our Journey Begins—Luke 24:13–35

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** The Bible is my guide.

SESSION 2: God Is My Creator—Genesis 1:1–31; 2:7

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** God is my Creator.

SESSION 3: Adam and Eve Sin—Genesis 3:1–6, 14–24

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** Sin separates me from God.

SESSION 4: God Judges Sin*—Genesis 6:9–14; 7:1–5

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** God wants me to obey.

*Preschool/Kids: Noah Obeys God

VOLUME 2

GOD'S CALL

1 THESSALONIANS 5:24

SESSION 1: Abraham and Isaac Trust God—
Genesis 22:1–18

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** I can trust God.

SESSION 2: Jacob, Esau, and God's Plan—
Genesis 25:19–23; 27:1–27, 30–38, 41

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** God's plan is always best.

SESSION 3: Joseph Forgives His Brothers—
Genesis 50:15–21

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** God helps me forgive.

SESSION 4: Moses and the Burning Bush—
Exodus 3:1–20

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** God is always with me.

VOLUME 3

STEPPING OUT

PSALM 37:23

SESSION 1: The Exodus from Egypt—
Exodus 14:1–31

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** God saves me.

SESSION 2: Israelites in the Wilderness—
Exodus 16:1–18

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** God gives me what I need.

SESSION 3: The Ten Commandments—
Exodus 20:1–17

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** I love God and others.

SESSION 4: Joshua and the Promised Land—
Joshua 5:13 to 6:20

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** God keeps His promises.

VOLUME 4

SET APART

ISAIAH 41:10

SESSION 1: God Calls Gideon—Judges 6:11–16, 36–40

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** God believes in me.

SESSION 2: Ruth and Boaz—Ruth 4:13–22

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** God provides for me.

SESSION 3: Samuel Listens to God—1 Samuel 3:1–10

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** God speaks to me.

SESSION 4: Israel Demands a King—

1 Samuel 8:1–20

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** I will choose to follow God.

VOLUME 5

PURPOSEFUL LIVING

MATTHEW 5:16

SESSION 1: David and Goliath—1 Samuel 17:32–51

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** With God, I can be brave.

SESSION 2: Solomon Chooses Wisdom—2 Chronicles 1:1, 7–12

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** With God, I know what to do.

SESSION 3: Elijah vs. Baal's Prophets—1 Kings 18:16–39

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** God is the one true God.

SESSION 4: Elisha and the Widow—2 Kings 4:1–7

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** God cares about everything in my life.

VOLUME 6

PERFECT TIMING

2 CORINTHIANS 5:7

SESSION 1: Jonah Goes to Nineveh—Jonah 1:1–2; 3:1 to 4:2

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** God loves everyone.

SESSION 2: Daniel in the Lions' Den—Daniel 6:10–27

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** God listens when I pray.

SESSION 3: Esther and the King—Esther 4:10 to 5:4

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** God knows what's best.

SESSION 4: Nehemiah Rebuilds the Wall—Nehemiah 2:11–20

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** God wants me to trust Him.

VOLUME 7

ENCOUNTERING JESUS

JOHN 14:6

SESSION 1: Jesus' Birth*—Matthew 1:21–23; Luke 2:25–32

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** God gave me Jesus.

*Preschool/Kids: Jesus Is Born

SESSION 2: Jesus Heals a Woman—Mark 5:21–34

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** Nothing is impossible for God.

SESSION 3: Jesus Teaches How to Live—Matthew 5:1–10

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** Jesus teaches me.

SESSION 4: The Prodigal Son—Luke 15:11–32

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** God forgives me.

VOLUME 8

MY SAVIOR

ROMANS 5:8

SESSION 1: The Last Supper—John 13:1–20

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** Jesus shows me how to live.

SESSION 2: The Crucifixion*—Luke 23:32–49

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** Jesus is my Savior.

*Preschool/Kids: Jesus Dies on the Cross

SESSION 3: The Resurrection*—Luke 24:1–12

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** Jesus defeated death.

*Preschool/Kids: Jesus Is Risen

SESSION 4: The Great Commission*—

Matthew 28:16–20; Acts 1:3–11

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** With Jesus, I can change the world.

*Preschool/Kids: Jesus Sends Me

VOLUME 9

NEW DIRECTION

ACTS 1:8

SESSION 1: Baptism in the Holy Spirit—

Acts 1:8; 2:1–12

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** The Holy Spirit lives in me.

SESSION 2: The Church Begins—Acts 2:42–47

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** The church helps me grow.

SESSION 3: Saul's Conversion*—Acts 9:1–22

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** God changes my life.

*Preschool/Kids: Saul on the Damascus Road

SESSION 4: Paul and Silas in Prison—Acts 16:16–34

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** With God, I am never alone.

VOLUME 10

FINISHING STRONG

PHILIPPIANS 3:14

SESSION 1: Timothy Learns from Paul—

2 Timothy 3:10–17

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** God has a plan for me.

SESSION 2: Faith and Works—James 1:19–27;

2:14–26

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** God wants me to take action.

SESSION 3: Jesus Is Coming Back—

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; 5:1–11

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** Jesus is coming back.

SESSION 4: New Heaven and New Earth—

Revelation 21:1–10, 21–27

▶ **Faith Fact (for kids):** I can live with God forever.

Appendix B: Listen Overview Chart

Adult	Youth	Kids	Preschool
Components of Group Time			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening theme question Bible-inspired theme video Introduction to the study What the Bible Says, Scripture, questions, and commentary Personal Reflection Questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening group activity about theme including a Bible-inspired theme video Consider what the Bible says Reflect on what the Bible is teaching us Activate faith in response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fun games and videos Welcome and worship Leader-led Bible teaching and Response Time with supplemental videos Bible-centered discussion and creative activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preservice Activities Welcome and Worship Videos that teach the Bible story and Faith Verse (Kids can watch them again at home!) Circle time learning activities
How does each age level engage with God's Word?			
<p>Adults will gather to Listen in Community as they dig into God's Word and explore what the Bible says about the session topic, watch a thought-provoking video, and pause to Listen to God as they reflect individually. To achieve deeper engagement during the week, Listen on Your Own offers five personal devotions for self-guided study of God's Word.</p>	<p>Focusing on a discovery approach to learning, Youth sessions Engage in God's Word through fun activities and an inspiring video. Then students will Consider what God is saying in selected Bible passages, Reflect on the main themes, and Activate what they've learned in their faith journey. Listen on Your Own offers four personal devotions for self-guided study of God's Word.</p>	<p>Unlike adult and youth, kids' components can be used together or in two separate ministry opportunities. Large Group wraps the Bible story presentation with fun videos. Kids worship and respond as they listen to God. Small Group time digs into the Bible passage with guided discussion, games, and active learning.</p>	<p>Preschoolers start with Preservice Activities to launch Bible learning. Large Group time centers around fun videos where Lizzy and her grandpa invite kids to engage with Bible stories and learn the Faith Verse. Kids will love finding the hidden clues that reinforce the story! Small Group circles are packed with hands-on learning, games, creative activities, and more.</p>
How does each session invite them to listen to God?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bible-inspired theme videos Personal Reflection Questions at the conclusion of Community time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bible-inspired theme videos Scripture meaning is discovered, not just taught Action-focused application 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response Time invites both listening and life application Deep dialogue about featured passages in God's Word 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worship connects kids to their Creator Response Time invites them to hear from Him.

Family Devotions Simple-to-lead family devotions are a great follow-up after everyone has focused on the same part of God's Word!



Appendix C: App Instructions

Getting Started: Church Admin

Step 1: Set up your church account.

When you subscribed to Bible Engagement Project, we automatically set up your church as a group on Faithlife.com. If you haven't already checked that out, here's how you can access it.

1. Sign in to Faithlife.com with the email and password you used to subscribe to Bible Engagement Project.
2. On the left side of the screen toward the bottom, you'll see a "Groups" menu with your church name.
3. If you need to make changes to the name or add your church information, click on the three dots in the top right corner and choose "Settings."

Step 2: Get access to the Bible Engagement Project app.

The **Listen** curriculum, available with your subscription, is delivered exclusively on the Bible Engagement Project app.

1. Open the App Store or Google Play Store, depending on your device.
2. Search "Bible Engagement Project."
3. Download the Bible Engagement Project app.
4. Log in to the app with the same email and password that you use to manage your church/ministry account on Faithlife.com.

Step 3: Set up your subgroups.

Subgroups allow your church to create community in a smaller context. For example, you could create a subgroup for each of your church's small groups, youth group, and/or children's ministry leaders. Each subgroup has a private community message board where they can post encouragement, prayer requests, or other messages that aren't public to the entire church group.

1. Identify the subgroups you'd like to set up.
2. Sign in to Faithlife.com.
3. On the left side of the screen toward the bottom is a "Groups" menu. Select your church name.
4. Scroll down to the same "Groups" menu and choose the "plus" sign in the right corner of the menu.



Appendix C: App Instructions

5. Choose the group type (i.e., Small Group, Youth Group) and select “Next.”
6. Enter the subgroup name (i.e., Young Parents Small Group) and select “Next.”
7. Customize the group image, description, and contact details as much as you’d like, and then select “Done.”
8. Repeat this process for all the subgroups you’d like to set up.

Step 4: Invite the leaders of each subgroup.

You can assign leaders for each of the subgroups you’ve just created who will manage that group. This may be the husband and wife who co-lead the small group for parents, the children’s pastor who coordinates all the teachers, or the youth pastor who leads the youth small group.

1. Open the Bible Engagement Project app and select the “Community” tab in the bottom menu bar.
2. Click the arrow next to the group name to see all the subgroups you’ve created on Faithlife.com.
3. Select the subgroup you’re assigning a leader to.
4. Select the invite symbol (person with a plus sign) in the top right corner.
5. Click “Invite As” to set up the subgroup leader’s access level. We recommend choosing “Moderator” access.
6. Text or email the predrafted invite message to the leader of the subgroup. The **unique link** included will give him or her access to their specific subgroup with the privileges you’ve assigned. There’s also a QR code a leader could scan to get access.

NOTE: When a subgroup leader receives the invite message, they will click the unique link included to download the app and receive access to the curriculum and their specific subgroup.

7. To set up a leader in a different subgroup, click the arrow next to the group name and select the subgroup name and repeat the process.

When you’re ready to launch Bible Engagement Project in your whole church, each subgroup leader will invite the members of their group(s) to get access directly from their app. They will then be added to the overall church group along with the specific subgroup.

Appendix C: App Instructions

Getting Started: Group Leaders

Step 1: Get access to the Bible Engagement Project app.

The **Listen** curriculum, available through Bible Engagement Project, is delivered exclusively through the Bible Engagement Project app. Here's how to get access.

1. Click the link in the invite email or text you received from your church. This unique link will take you to the App Store or Google Play Store, depending on your device.
2. Download the Bible Engagement Project app.
3. Open the app and enter your email to create an account.

Step 2: Invite the members of your group to the app.

When your group is ready to start using **Listen** curriculum, invite the members of your group to access the app. Your group has a private community message board where you can post encouragement, prayer requests, or other messages that aren't public to the entire church group.

1. Open the Bible Engagement Project app and select the "Community" tab in the bottom menu bar.
2. Click the arrow next to the group name to see all the groups you're a part of.
3. Select the group you lead.
4. Select the invite symbol (person with a plus sign) in the top right corner.
5. Click "Invite As" to set up the group member's access level. We recommend choosing "Members" access.
6. Text or email the predrafted invite message to the group member. The **unique link** included will give him or her access to your group. There's also a QR code that could be scanned for access.

NOTE: *When a group member receives the invite message, he or she will click the unique link included to download the app and receive access to the curriculum and their specific group.*

7. To invite additional members of the group, select the invite symbol (person with a plus sign) in the top right corner and repeat the process.

Appendix D:

Children with Disabilities

Imagine that you arrive at church early to get ready when a child comes in with their parents. The parents tell you that your new student has autism and may not respond to questions or talk to other children. Are you confident about how to include this child in your group? This appendix will give you a few practical ideas to minister to children with special needs.

You may have concerns about teaching children with disabilities, but you don't need to feel overwhelmed. You probably already have children in your group who have a disability that you aren't aware of. It isn't necessary to know a child's diagnosis for you to love and include them, effectively teach them about God's love and acceptance, and lead them in a growing relationship with Jesus.

Working with children with disabilities in the church setting requires some training, but it's more about your willingness to use your gifts and acknowledge that the Lord will equip you with the grace and wisdom you need to teach and love your students well. It is important to look for your students' abilities and strengths and not focus on their disabilities. Disabilities impact each child to varying degrees.

People-First Language

- When people are described by a medical diagnosis, it devalues them as individuals—the language used to refer to individuals with disabilities shapes the ideas and beliefs about them.
- Using people-first language focuses on the person first and then adds what a person has—referring to someone as “autistic” focuses on their diagnosis rather than the person. Using people-first language changes the focus by stating that person is “an individual with autism.” This may seem like a minor detail to you, but it could be quite meaningful to the child and even the parents for you to reference that the child has autism, not that the child is autistic.
- The term “handicapped” is an outdated term and can be offensive. “Individuals with disabilities” supports people-first language.

Intellectual Disabilities

- You can't look at someone and determine if they have an intellectual disability. Determining an intellectual disability requires a trained professional to give standardized cognitive assessments to determine an Intelligence Quotient (IQ) which measures a variety of mental abilities.
- A child with an intellectual disability may have difficulty in these areas:
 - Understanding complex ideas
 - Learning new concepts quickly
 - Memorizing passages
 - Remembering the sequence of instructions

- Making a plan to complete a task or solve problems
- Learning from their experiences
- Applying something they learned in one setting to a different setting
- Remembering something they previously learned

Developmental Disabilities

- Developmental disabilities include autism, ADHD (Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder), traumatic brain injury, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, vision and hearing impairments, language and speech disorders, muscular dystrophy, Tourette syndrome, and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.
- Limitations may include not being able to:
 - Learn at a typical pace as other children
 - Learn deeper, more complex concepts
 - Be independent in self-care, including hygiene, toileting, and eating
 - Communicate verbally and understand what they hear
 - Move around independently

Supporting Children with Disabilities

- Preparing Your Lesson: You may not need to plan two separate lessons, but you may need to make modifications and accommodations to your lesson plans or activities to help each child feel comfortable and successful.
 - Modification: When a child is involved in the same lesson as others, but is provided with a different task or expectation especially in the areas of fine motor skills and memorization
 - Accommodation: A change that is made to the classroom or instruction that allows a child to participate. Consider adapting group time, implementing pair work, or a quiet zone.
- Communication Techniques: For children with disabilities, allow them ample processing time and consider using gestures or pictures.
- Creating Visual Schedules: Maintain a regular schedule for your meeting time and try to do it the same way every week. Develop a visual main schedule and hang it where everyone can see.
- Helping Students Build Friendships: Children with communication or language deficits may struggle to make friends on their own. Foster the development of peer relationships.
- Managing Behaviors: Dealing with problem behaviors is one of the most challenging aspects of teaching, even for trained, experienced teachers. Having a classroom system and rules for all children is one of the most important things teachers do. Help students before unexpected behavior arises by posting, reviewing, and referring to the rules. When unexpected behavior does arise, consider:
 - While the child is upset, remain calm and quiet. Love and accept the child but remain objective about the behaviors.
 - Reassure the other children that everything is okay, that the child is safe, and you want to give him a little time to feel better.
 - The teacher and another adult should remain in the room with the child; however, talking to the child while he is upset isn't the right time. He isn't able to think or respond.
 - When the child is completely calm, express your love and acceptance. Talk about what happened and how you can help him next time.
 - Reassure the parent that you are interested in learning how to help.

- After a major behavior incident, follow your church's procedures for writing a report and debriefing.
- Modeling and Training: You are a role model to all the children in your class. That means you must model what it means to love and include those with disabilities.

Support Families

- Just as you would give feedback to any parent, highlight specific activities their child is involved in and strengths that you see. For example, you can say that the child sat at the table with other children during coloring time, even if the child didn't participate in coloring.
- Approach the parents in a collaborative, friendly manner and communicate that you are looking for their expertise and insights to support their child at church.
- Your role is to find ways to help them experience God and learn about Him in ways they understand.
- Assure parents that you are seeking information so that you can better modify your lessons or the environment to include their child and best meet their child's needs. Share what strategies you've tried and ask what they may have discovered that could be helpful.
- Help parents to feel connected at church, as it can be lonely and isolating to raise a child with disabilities. Try to support the families through friendship.

For a more comprehensive overview, see [Including Children with Disabilities](#). This resource focuses on: intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities, and autism spectrum diagnoses. Whether you already have children in your church with disabilities or just want to be prepared for all students, this resource shows you how to share the love of Jesus with everyone who enters your class.