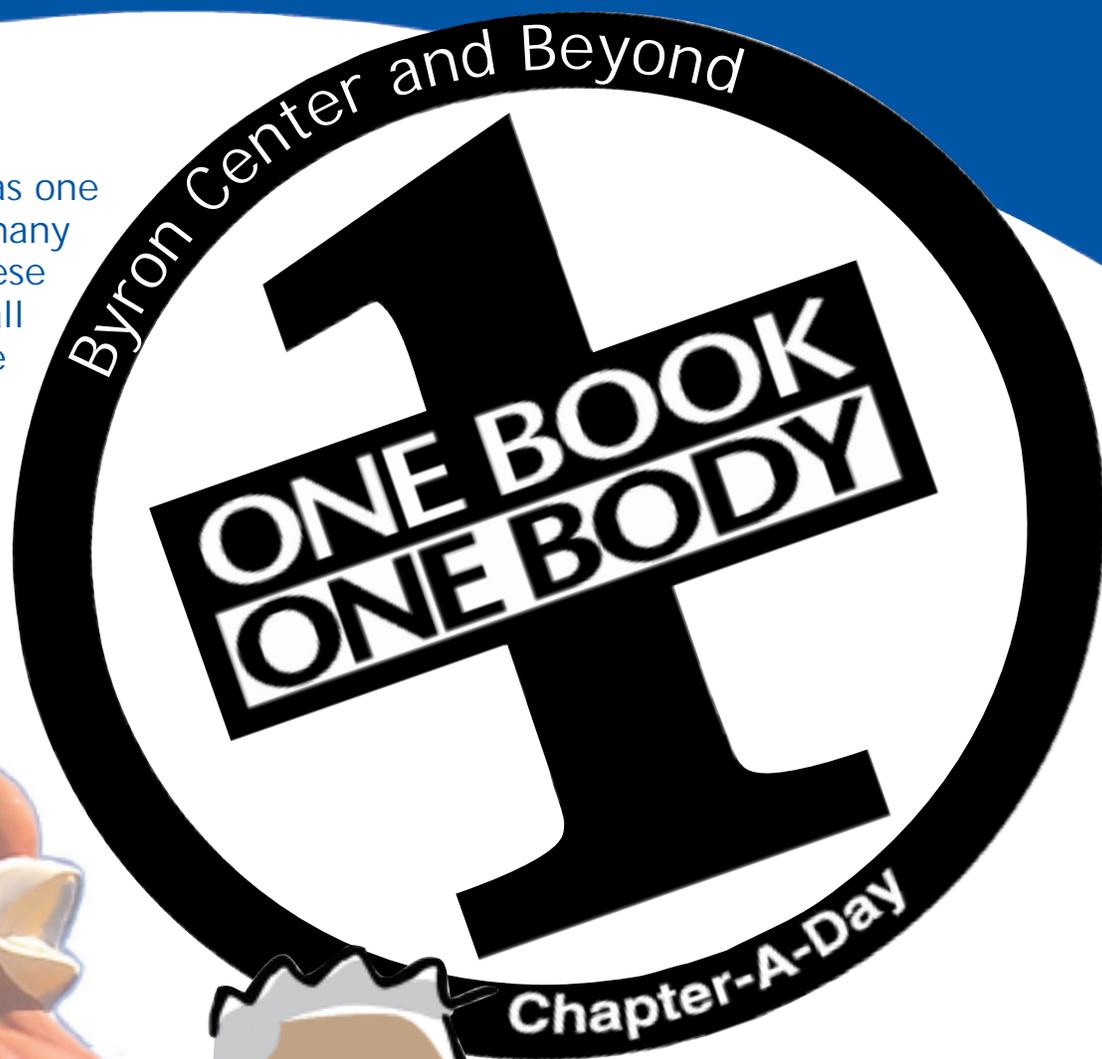
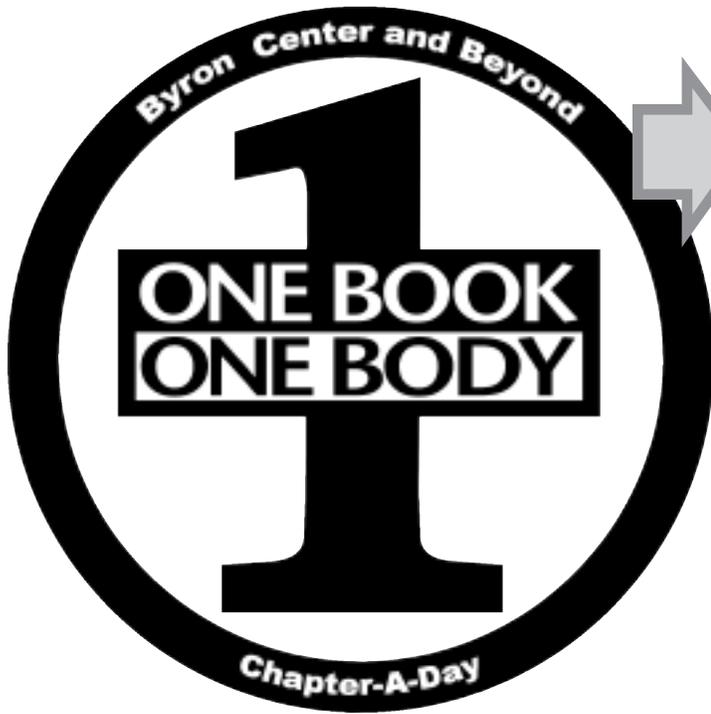


Just as each of us has one
body with many
members, and these
members do not all
have the same
function, so in
Christ we who are
many form one
body, and each
member belongs
to all the others.

Romans 12:4-5, NIV





What is it?

One Book/One Body is a community-building activity for the people of Byron Center and beyond.

Those who participate — singles, couples, families, neighbors — will read one chapter of the Bible every day throughout the year.

The idea is to put ourselves, quite literally, on the same page as each other!

Who's it for?

Anyone with a connection to Byron Center.

When's it happening?

All year long. Starting January 1, 2006.

Where will it be?

In church, at home, at the coffee shop, at work—everywhere around our community.

Why do this?

Good question. The short answers are:

- *It will be fun — and it will build community.*
- *It will answer questions — and it will give you new questions.*
- *It will be challenging — and it will be rewarding.*

The long answer is what the rest of this booklet is about. To give you a better picture, follow the arrows through a fun exercise to discover some Bible related and Byron Center trivia.

1. Which **two** phrases are **not** in the Bible?
 - a. "Am I my brother's keeper?"
 - b. "God moves in mysterious ways"
 - c. "in the twinkling of an eye"
 - d. "the skin of my teeth"
 - e. "Can a leopard change his spots?"
 - f. "apple of his eye"
 - g. "a drop in the bucket"
 - h. "God helps those who help themselves"



2. How many times did Shakespeare quote from the Bible?
 - a. 200
 - b. 400
 - c. 800
 - d. 1600

Source: *What If the Bible Had Never Been Written?*, D. James Kennedy and Jerry Newcombe, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, 1998.

3. Who did **not** say, "a house divided against itself cannot stand"?
 - a. Abraham Lincoln
 - b. Jesus Christ
 - c. Winston Churchill

5. Just for fun, circle the Biblical names of people you know:

Adam Benjamin Daniel
David Deborah Elijah
Elizabeth Esther Ezra
Gabriel Jacob James
Jason Joel John Joseph
Joshua Luke Mark Mary
Matthew Michael
Nathan Paul Peter
Philip Ruth Stephen
Timothy Thomas

How many did you circle? _____

NEXT PAGE

4. As of 2000, how many Bibles are estimated to be in existence?
 - a. 14,000,000
 - b. 140,000,000
 - c. 1,400,000,000

Based on calculations from *World Christian Trends A.D. 30-A.D. 2200: Interpreting the Annual Christian Megacensus*, David B. Barrett and Terry M. Johnson, William Carey Library, Pasadena, CA, 2001.

6. How did Byron Township get its name?

- a. after the controversial English poet, Lord Byron.
- b. after Cpt. J. Byron, who, after serving with the Colonial Army, settled near Ypsilanti, MI
- c. after the brother of state surveyor, Roger Peterson.

7. Who's believed to be the first "settler" in Byron Township?

- a. Samuel Towner
- b. James McKinney
- c. Nathan Boynton

8. Eight years before Byron Center's first Post Office and Train, the Methodist Church was built in:

- a. 1841
- b. 1861
- c. 1881

9. Samuel Towner, who surveyed the original plat for Byron Center, drew his pension as "a survivor of" what war?

- a. The Civil War
- b. The War of 1812
- c. World War I

10. Which US President and/or candidate does not have a Byron Center connection?

- a. Candidate William Jennings Bryan
- b. President James Garfield
- c. President Theodore Roosevelt
- d. President Gerald R. Ford

11. "The Chicken" has long advertised the Byron Hotel's Saturday night chicken dinners. The current price is \$9.25. What was it in 1955, the year "The Chicken" was born?

- a. \$1.25, b. \$2.25, c. \$3.25

12. During World War II, how was Byron Township bombed by Japan?

- a. A Japanese student, lit off a brick of firecrackers during a Halloween's eve riot.
- b. A fire bomb was dropped from a hot air balloon that had been launched into the jet stream from Japan.
- c. A torpedo was launched from a Japanese submarine that had navigated into Lake Michigan.

13. Which stone in Winegar Cemetery is known as the "glowing gravestone"?

- a. Drinkall
- b. Winegar
- c. Leyendecker

14. Now ninety years old, Edna Hilaski has served chicken dinners at the Byron Hotel for which of its owners?

- a. Don & Lillian Zoulek
- b. Jim & Pat Zoulek
- c. Mary "Jake" McCarty & Dan Raether
- d. All of the above

15. Having doubled since 1980, how many people now live in Byron Township?

- a. over 13,000
- b. over 17,000
- c. over 21,000

Chances are, there's quite a bit you can still learn about the Bible and about the community you live in. You have some kind of connection to them all, but your interaction with them can be taken further. That's what *One Book/One Body* is all about.

Hmm...

I'm not convinced yet. Put it in plain English for me.

So, are you interested in building community with us?

YES!

This sounds intriguing. How do I get started?

NEXT PAGE

The *One Book/One Body* Bible-reading program is a concerted effort by our community to recognize the importance of the Bible to our history, our faith, our families, and our future. We invite you to investigate this significant book with us, as we journey through it together — some as rookies, some as seasoned travelers, all with new and exciting discoveries.

ONE BOOK

Many library councils around the country have promoted community-building and enjoyment by reading the same book together. Great discussions arise out of sharing a common text. However, the books themselves rarely change people's lives. The Bible, which has shaped Western society, is the one book with the track record to make a difference in the life of anyone willing to give it a serious read.

ONE BODY

There are around 20 churches in Byron Township, representing many differences in practices, doctrines, and denominations. Reading Scripture together does not require that we relinquish our denominational or doctrinal distinctiveness; it gives us a common discussion point with those who see things differently. The Bible has been, and remains, the **greatest common denominator** in the Christian faith. As we grow closer to God, perhaps we'll find ourselves — all differences INCLUDED — growing closer to each other and to the mission Jesus gave us as His people.



6 = a: 7 = c: 8 = b: 9 = b (see his certificate upstairs at the Historical Museum); 10 = c (Garfield was nephew of the Boynton brothers, both Bryan and Ford met with supporters and/or constituents at the old town hall); 11 = a: 12 = b (The balloon was actually found on Ken Fein's farm in North Door, and the easternmost intact balloon ever found in the States. The bomb it was designed to carry was never located.); 13 = a (there are different opinions, but neighbors and Isaac Winegar descendants, Al & Vivian Suchowsky, confirm it's the Drinkall stone); 14 = d: 15 = c (figures published 8/17/05 by Byron Township). --Special thanks to the Byron Center Historical Museum.

CHECKLIST

- An interest in learning more about the *One Book/One Body* campaign
- A willingness to try something you've never done before
- This booklet
- A group to meet with (the rest of this booklet is designed to be done with others in order to build community)

I need a group...

Completing this booklet with other interested people will give you support and encouragement for your participation in the campaign. It will help you get involved, get connected, and find out why the Bible is such a big deal. See for yourself!

To join a group:

- contact the person who gave you this booklet, or
- contact your pastor, or
- contact Campaign Coordinator, Jim Heethuis at 878-7284.

I have a group...

Perhaps you've just met the people in your group; perhaps you know each other already. Either way, you're about to learn more about each other. Imagine the camaraderie of not only connecting further with the people in this group, but other participants all around our community.

Keep getting together until you finish this booklet. It will challenge and encourage your group to support each other and hold each other accountable toward accomplishing the reading goals of the campaign. Moreover, it will encourage you to get others involved. Participate with your friend, your spouse, your family, your carpool, your club, or your team. Byron Center is a great community! Joining with others in this endeavor will continue to make our community strong!

START

Session 1



Fun Activity:

What is one of your favorite books (other than the Bible)? Write down the title and your reasons below. If completing this session with a group, give each person an opportunity to share their answers.

Title: _____

Author: _____

Why is it a favorite?



Focus:

Certain books are our favorites because they changed the way we look at the world, because of beautiful writing, or because of vivid characters. The Bible has all this and more — it allows us to build a relationship with the author. It allows us to build relationships with each other. **In this session you're going to talk about how the Bible affects us.**



Quiz:

MATCH THE QUOTE WITH WHO SAID IT:

- Charles Dickens
- Thomas Jefferson
- Booker T. Washington
- Dwight L. Moody
- William Lyon Phelps,
Yale University professor
- David Robinson, *NBA star*
- Theodore Roosevelt
- George Washington

1. It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible.
2. The New Testament is the greatest Book the world has ever known or ever will know.
3. I have always said, I always say, that the studious perusal of the sacred volume will make better citizens, better fathers, and better husbands.
4. I never saw a useful Christian who was not a student of the Bible.
5. No educated man can afford to be ignorant of the Bible, and no uneducated man can afford to be ignorant of the Bible.
6. I learned to love to read the Bible, not only for the spiritual help which it gives, but on account of it as literature. The lessons taught me in this respect took such a hold upon me that at the present time, when I am at home, no matter how busy I am, I always make it a rule to read a chapter or a portion of a chapter in the morning, before beginning the work of the day.
7. The English Bible has been a greater influence in the course of English literature than all other forces put together. It is impossible to read standard authors intelligently without knowing something about the Bible, for they all assume familiarity with it.
8. I get in the Bible every day. That keeps me on the right path.

(Answers: 1. Washington, 2. Dickens, 3. Jefferson, 4. Moody, 5. Roosevelt, 6. Booker T. Washington, 7. Phelps, 8. Robinson)



Inside the Bible:

CLEARLY, THE BIBLE HAS AN AFFECT ON OUR LIVES WHETHER WE OPEN IT OR NOT. It has helped shape our society, our politics, our literature, our language, our ways of thinking. But what makes this book so influential?

Relationships. The Bible is powerful because it's about relationships. And reading about these relationships will, somehow, help you **build your own**.

Friends

3 John 1:14 — *Peace to you. The friends here send their greetings. Greet the friends there by name. (NIV)*

It might be interesting to figure out how many people in your neighborhood do you know by name.

Write & Discuss:

Who in your "neighborhood" is your "closest friend." Why?

Marriage

Ephesians 5:33 — *Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband. (KJV)*

The Biblical portrait of marriage teaches partners that each should consider the other's value greater than one's own. How many marriages can you say that about?



Session One



Write & Discuss:

Of the couples you know, whose marriage do you really admire? Why?

Family

Acts 21:5 — *But when our time was up, we left and continued on our way. All the disciples and their wives and children accompanied us out of the city, and there on the beach we knelt to pray. (NIV)*

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 — *These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. (NIV)*

Spiritual values are powerfully taught in the context of your family.



Write & Discuss:

What spiritual habits do you have in your home? What could happen to your family if for a year you listened to God by reading the Bible together once a day and talked to God in prayer?

Community

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 — *Two people can accomplish more than twice as much as one; they get a better return for their labor. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But people who are alone when they fall are in real trouble. (NLT)*

Ephesians 3:20 — *Now glory be to God, who by his mighty power at work within us is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of — infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes. (TLB)*

One person reading the Word is one thing. Two is even better. God wants to release his mighty power on us and through us.



Write & Discuss:

How would it help you to have our whole community reading the Bible together? What do you think could happen in our community if we read a chapter of the Bible each day for an entire year?

Expanding Community

Romans 12:13 — *Get into the habit of inviting guests home for dinner or, if they need lodging, for the night. (NLT)*

Community happens when people in the community make it happen.



Write & Discuss:

How “inviting” are we in this community? Whom can you invite over this week and tell about the *One Book/One Body* campaign?

God

John 15:15 — *I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. (NKJV)*

You can let stories you hear, messages in church, or books you read be your spiritual life. Or you can go straight to the source — Jesus.



Write & Discuss:

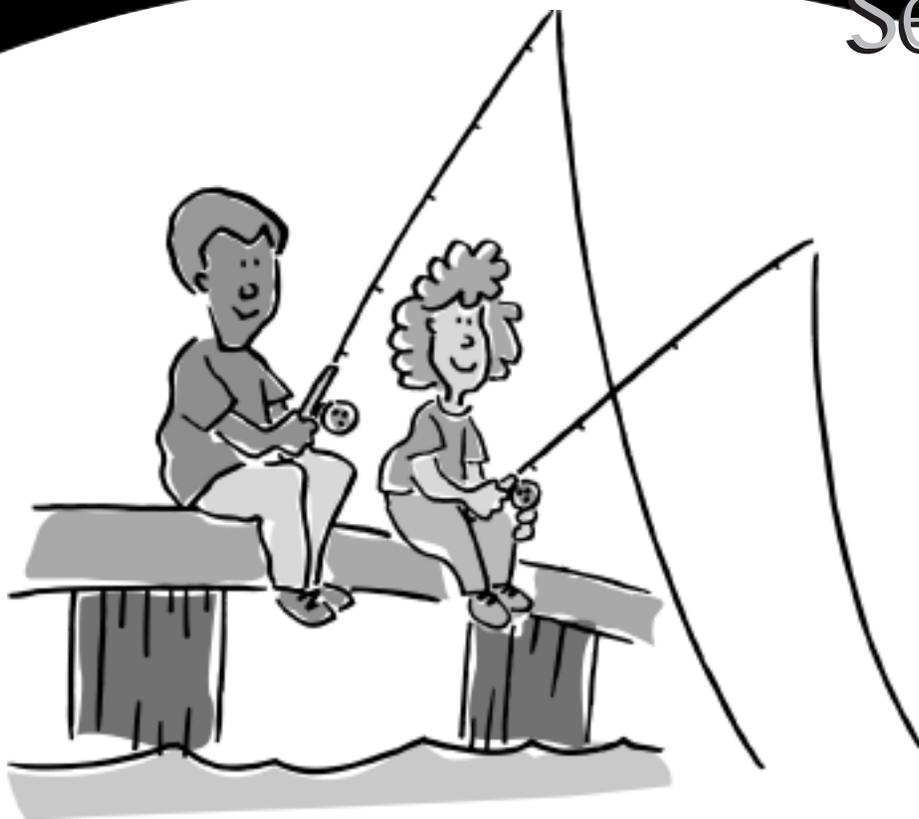
What would help you strengthen your personal relationship with Jesus?

Conclusion:

The Bible has a lot to say about relationships. God wants a relationship with us, so he gives us guidelines for talking to him (that is, praying). The prayer known as the Lord’s Prayer is in the Bible. End your session by reading it together (Luke 11:2–4):

And he said unto them, “When ye pray, say, ‘Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.’” (KJV)

Session 2



Fun Activity:

Share about a close friend from long ago or today. How did you meet? How did the friendship get started? How did it grow to "close friend" status?



Focus:

The basic building blocks of any long-term friendship or successful marriage are lots of time spent talking and listening together. Although it sounds basic, it's easy to forget to give someone our attention, or share the things important to us. **In this session we will explore talking and listening to each other — by talking and listening to God.** Reading a chapter of the Bible (listening to God) and using a prayer guide (talking to God) is a taste of what we'll do in our *One Book/One Body* campaign.



Inside the Bible:

IN THIS EXERCISE, WE'LL PRACTICE LISTENING TO GOD AND TO EACH OTHER.

Step One

Read Genesis 2 and underline **three things** that interest you.

¹Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. ²And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. ³Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

⁴This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground; ⁶but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.

⁷And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

⁸The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. ⁹And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and

Session Two

the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads. ¹¹The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one which skirts the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹²And the gold of that land is good. Bdellium and the onyx stone are there. ¹³The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one which goes around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴The name of the third river is Hiddekel; it is the one which goes toward the east of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

¹⁸And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." ¹⁹Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air; and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air; and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.

²¹And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. ²²Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

²³And Adam said:

"This is now bone of my bones
And flesh of my flesh;
She shall be called Woman,
Because she was taken out of Man."

²⁴Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

²⁵And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed. (NKJV)

Step Two

 Write & Discuss:

Choose one of the items you underlined and write down why you underlined it. Now going clockwise from the youngest person, share what you wrote.

Step Three

 Write & Discuss:

Write down what you think God wanted you to hear from this passage today. Begin your sentence: "I think God wanted me to hear..." or "Maybe God's trying to tell me..." Then, starting with the person who was born farthest from Byron Center, go clockwise and share what you wrote.



Praying together:

IN THIS EXERCISE, WE'LL PRACTICE TALKING TO GOD AND TO EACH OTHER. PRAYER can be difficult even for seasoned Christians. You may never have addressed God before or talked to Him aloud in the presence of others. Just like talking with an old friend or a new acquaintance, sometimes you don't know what to say or how to say it. That is where using a guide and writing it down can help.

On the next page is a prayer guide known as ACTS. Read through the sample version to get the idea. Then, using the prompts, take five minutes to fill in as much of the guide as you can. After the five minutes, the leader will begin the prayer time by saying "Adoration." Beginning with the leader and progressing clockwise, each person simply reads what he has written under "Adoration." If you don't have anything written in the section, say "pass" or quietly tap the next person. The leader will then continue the pattern by saying, "Confession," then "Thanksgiving," then "Supplication." The leader will close by saying "Amen."

Session Two

Adoration:
(Psalm 8)

Confession:
(Psalm 32:3-5)

Thanksgiving:
(1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Supplication:
(Philippians 4:6)
Personal —

Family —

Work —

Friends —

Dreams —

Other needs —

Adoration: (Psalm 8)

I praise you, God, for your love.

Confession: (Psalm 32:3-5)

I'm sorry for not being encouraging to the people closest to me. For not spending time with my kids.

Thanksgiving: (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

I thank you for a good day. For loving people in my life. For helping us get our car fixed.

Supplication: (Philippians 4:6)

Personal — Help me be more encouraging. Help me find more joy around me.

Family — Help me be a better husband. Help me bring the best out of my wife. Be with Tara at her game.

Work — Help me enjoy and be grateful for my work.

Friends — Bless Dave, Jim, and Jan.

Dreams — That in my family we grow closer to God and each other, and then share what we have with others.

Other needs — Comfort persecuted Christians in China.

Reflection & discussion:

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS AS A GROUP:

1. How did doing this Bible study together help you connect with the people doing it? How did it help you connect with God?

2. The *One Book/One Body* campaign has the potential to connect you to many other people in a similar fashion. Have your leader read through the following questions and let each person answer the one (or ones) most exciting to consider:

a) *If you were to read one chapter of the Bible each day for a year, what do you think that would do for your relationship with God?*

b) *If you were to read one chapter of the Bible each day, and then meet with people from your neighborhood to support each other, what do you think that would do for your relationships in your neighborhood?*

c) *What if you met with your spouse or a friend once a week to talk about what you read — what would that do for your relationship with your spouse or friend?*

d) *What if you met with your family each week to talk about the reading? What do you think that would do for your relationships in your family?*

e) *If all the people in your church, young and old, were to read one chapter of the Bible each day and then support each other with activities (like these sessions), what do you think that would do for the relationships in your church?*

f) *If all Christians in Byron Township were to read from the same passage each day, what would that do for the sense of community in our area?*

Homework:

Before the next session, take a half-hour to meet with a friend, neighbor, or spouse to practice your talking and listening. Read Romans 12 (printed on the next page) and underline **three things** that interest you. Choose one of them, and explain to the other person why you underlined it. Then discuss what you think God wanted you to hear from the passage. Finish by praying through the ACTS guide together.

Romans 12 (NKJV)

¹I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

³For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. ⁴For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

⁶Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; ⁷or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

⁹Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. ¹⁰Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; ¹¹not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹²rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; ¹³distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

¹⁶Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. ¹⁸If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

²⁰Therefore

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
If he is thirsty, give him a drink;
For in so doing
you will heap coals of fire on his head."

²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Adoration: (Psalm 8)

Confession: (Psalm 32:3-5)

Thanksgiving: (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Supplication: (Philippians 4:6)

Personal —

Family —

Work —

Friends —

Dreams —

Other needs —

Session 3



Fun Activity:

PART ONE:

Divide your group into pairs. Each team will need one piece of paper and two pencils. Without any planning or discussion, the teams draw as many squares as they can in one minute — however, each person can draw only two lines of any particular square.

How many did you draw together? Which team drew the most squares?

PART TWO:

Now take two minutes to plan how you are going to double your square-drawing output. When the two minutes are through, try the one-minute experiment again.

Did you double your output?
Did any team figure out how to draw hundreds of squares in one minute?



Focus:

In this activity, you may have discovered that making a plan greatly improves your chance of success in reaching a goal. You will need such a plan if you are going to stick with the *One Book/One Body* program for an entire year. **In this session, you will discover the strategies and resources to make it happen in your own life.** Step-by-step, we'll help you create a plan for WALKING — taking time with God — and another for TALKING — sharing that walk with others.



Your WALKING plan (taking specific time for God):

WRITE & DISCUSS:

How well did your homework go? Did it challenge you? Was it rewarding?

To complete 365 similar homework assignments during the year, it will help to have a solid plan. Plans require five parts: a curriculum, a goal, a schedule, a reward, and support. Take 10 minutes to fill out these sections and then share as a group:

Part 1: Curriculum

The most consistent and trustworthy way to listen to God is through the Bible. That's why it's the "one book" we will be reading throughout the year.

There are many kinds of Bibles. Some have been passed down through generations; others are new study Bibles packed with historical information. Several different English translations (of the original Hebrew and Greek writings) are available. There are even



Session Three

audio Bibles and Bibles for different reading levels. If you need help deciding which Bible to use, check with your group leader or your pastor, if you have one.

 **Write & Discuss:**

What Bible(s) are you likely to use for listening to God?

The main way we talk to God is through regular prayer. The ACTS prayer guide is one helpful option; feel free to choose another guide if you know one. Again, your group leader or pastor would gladly offer suggestions.

 **Write & Discuss:**

What prayer guide are you likely to use for talking to God?

Part 2: Goal

In order to do this *One Book/One Body* project together, we are all going to have the same goal: To read one chapter of the Bible each day of this year. The reading program (see clip-out bookmark on the last page) covers 365 chapters. The chapters covered are the highlights of the Bible.

- I agree to read one chapter a day this year.
- My spouse and I agree to read one chapter a day this year.
- My family and I agree to read one chapter a day this year.
- My friend(s) and I agree to read one chapter a day this year.

Part 3: Schedule

 **Write & Discuss:**

What time of day will you set aside to meet with God for your specific Scripture reading and prayer goals? Mark the chart with an "X."

Part 4: Reward

What if even *half* of the people, couples, or families in our community succeeded at reading the Bible every day? What if all the pastors were preaching out of the seven chapter that we had read that week? Consider what God might accomplish through us! The rewards would be beyond our imagination!

Still, more tangible, periodic rewards to celebrate your progress can keep you going over the long haul. Consider appropriate rewards to motivate yourself, your family, or your group:

- Tickets to a play, sporting event, water park, or concert
- Weekend road trip to somewhere you've never been
- Opportunity to participate in a church mission trip
- Other: _____

(Pastors: How might you set up rewards and recognition for your congregation?)

Part 5: Support

1 Thessalonians 5:11 — *Encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. (NIV)*

Hebrews 10:24 — *Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. (NIV)*

Many would-be Bible readers fail to actually read the Bible for lack of support. It's a big book! Once you've completed this session, fill out the commitment page at the back of this booklet and give it to your *One Book/One Body* coordinator.

In return you'll be eligible for special *One Book/One Body* identification materials: wristbands, t-shirts, house signs, bumper stickers, etc. These will signal to others your commitment to participate, and create opportunities for you to support and encourage other participants. Talk to your leader to find out what's being done in Byron Center. All together, creating an identifiable culture of Bible-reading will help everyone succeed!







	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
SUN			
MON			
TUE			
WED			
THU			
FRI			
SAT			

Session Three

Write & Discuss:

Who specifically can support, encourage, and challenge you in the *One Book/One Body* effort — neighbors, friends, relatives, groups? (On the previous schedule grid, use an “O” to indicate when you plan to meet with these people.)



Your TALKING plan (sharing it with others):

READ ACTS 8:26-40 ALOUD IN THE GROUP.

²⁶Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, “Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is desert. ²⁷So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go near and overtake this chariot.”

³⁰So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

³¹And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him. ³²The place in the Scripture which he read was this:

“He was led as a sheep to the slaughter;
And as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
So He opened not His mouth.

³³In His humiliation His justice was taken away,
And who will declare His generation?

For His life is taken from the earth.” [Isaiah 53:7,8]

³⁴So the eunuch answered Philip and said, “I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?” ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. ³⁶Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?”

³⁷Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.”

And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

³⁸So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. ³⁹Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea. (NKJV)

- ▶ How has your leader been like Philip to you?
 - A. Answered all your questions
 - B. Simply walked alongside you in your questions
 - C. Helped you get closer to Jesus

- ▶ How have you been like the Ethiopian?
 - A. Eager to learn
 - B. Confused
 - C. Ready to make commitments
 - D. Other: _____

Write & Discuss:

What has doing these three sessions with this group done for you?

The Bible does not tell us what happened to the Ethiopian in this story. But we know from history that Christianity spread in a big way to his country. Could it be that this high official went back to his country and then, like Philip, helped others?

Session Three

The goal of these sessions has been to help you commit yourself to a year-long campaign in the Byron Center area. Your leaders have been like Philip to you. Having graduated from this short course, you now have the opportunity to become Philips yourselves — people who **help someone else** get a walk with God.



◀◀◀ **Write & Discuss:**

Make a list of people you know who you think would benefit from going through this booklet; people with whom you could start a new group.

- ▶ What's keeping you from planting a few seeds with those you've written down?
 - A. I'm too afraid of what they might think.
 - B. I'm too afraid they might say they are not interested.
 - C. I'm too busy now, maybe some day.
 - D. Nothing. How do I get going?

If you answered "A," read this verse and proceed to Step 1: *For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.* (2 Timothy 1:7, NLT)

If you answered "B," read this verse and proceed to Step 1: *Be sure to stay busy and plant a variety of crops, for you never know which will grow — perhaps they all will.* (Ecclesiastes 11:6, NLT)

If you answered "C," read this verse and proceed to Step 1: *If you wait until the wind and the weather are just right, you will never plant anything and never harvest anything.* (Ecclesiastes 11:4, TEV)

If you answered "D," then here is what you do:



Step 1: Make a commitment

Turn to page 16 and fill out both forms.

You will turn in the top half of the page to your group leader or pastor.

The bottom half of the page you will keep as a bookmark in your chosen Bible to remind you of your "WALKING Plan."

Commit to contacting the people on your list above and invite them to join you. Don't assume they're not interested, just ask! What you do with the "TALKING" part of your plan will help make community a reality!



Step 2: Identify yourself

Let people know that you are participating in the *One Book/One Body* campaign! Talk about it with your family, at school, in line at the grocery store, among your co-workers and fellow church members.

Using campaign materials will identify yourself as a participant and give you opportunities to connect with other participants — those who may be a curious rookies or mature brothers or sisters in Christ.



NEXT PAGE



Step 3: Equip yourself

Make sure you have the materials you will need to be successful. Do you need a new Bible? Do your children need Bibles they can understand? Does your group need study materials that will encourage discussion about what you are reading? Do you have extra campaign materials for the people you'll invite to join? Get what you need through:

your church's coordinator,
campaign coordinator, Jim Heethuis (878-7284),
or, for more info
www.onebookonebody.com

Step 4: Lead a group

Help spread the Word! Download and print as many copies of the Byron Center One Book/One Body Orientation Study as you need for the people on your list.

<http://www.onebookonebody.com/download/index.asp>

The study is a PDF file that can be e-mailed, reprinted, and distributed as needed. Meet with the people on your list as many times as it takes to complete the three sessions.

Step 5: Grow!

Enjoy God's blessings as you build your relationship with Him and others through regular Bible reading and prayer!



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I'm committed!

Complete and return this half of the page to your group leader, pastor, or *One Book/One Body* coordinator.

Sign up one person per card. (Participating Bible Studies and youth groups should submit one signed card for each participating member. Families can submit as a group but are encouraged to commit individually.)

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State ZIP _____
 Phone _____
 E-mail _____
 Church _____
 Did you complete the *One Book/One Body* study booklet?
 Yes No
 If yes, did you complete it
 on your own, or with a group?
 Group leader's name _____

I do hereby commit to participating in the *One Book/One Body* Bible-reading campaign. Each day I will try to spend 5–10 minutes on the scheduled reading. I will encourage other participants by my own participation. I'll talk to others about the day's readings whenever opportunities arise.

Signed _____

Date _____

Witnessed by _____

Clip and keep this page in your Bible as a reminder of your commitment and a way to stay on track!

I'm committed!

- My schedule for this specific time with God will be: (mark grid below with an "X")
- I will meet with my support group: (mark grid below with an "O")

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Morning							
Afternoon							
Evening							

- The Bible I'll use for the *One Book/One Body* campaign will be: _____
- The prayer guide I'll use will be: _____
- To reward my reading progress, I'll do the following at the end of: (choose as many as you need to succeed!)
 - Each Month _____
 - Each Bible book _____
 - The Old Testament Readings _____
 - The Entire Reading Schedule _____

4. My support group will be these people: _____

<input type="checkbox"/> 1/1: Gen. 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 6/8: Prov. 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 7/31: Matt. 17	<input type="checkbox"/> 9/22: Rom. 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 11/14: 1 Tim. 5
<input type="checkbox"/> 1/2: Gen. 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 6/9: Prov. 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8/1: Matt. 21	<input type="checkbox"/> 9/23: Rom. 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 11/15: 1 Tim. 6
<input type="checkbox"/> 1/3: Gen. 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 6/10: Prov. 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 8/2: Matt. 24	<input type="checkbox"/> 9/24: Rom. 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 11/16: 2 Tim. 1
<input type="checkbox"/> 1/4: Gen. 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6/11: Prov. 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 8/3: Matt. 25	<input type="checkbox"/> 9/25: Rom. 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 11/17: 2 Tim. 2
<input type="checkbox"/> 1/5: Gen. 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 6/12: Prov. 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 8/4: Matt. 26	<input type="checkbox"/> 9/26: Rom. 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 11/18: 2 Tim. 3
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<input type="checkbox"/> 1/8: Gen. 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 6/15: Ecc. 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 8/7: Mark 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 9/29: Rom. 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 11/21: Titus 2
<input type="checkbox"/> 1/9: Gen. 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 6/16: Ecc. 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 8/8: Mark 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 9/30: Rom. 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 11/22: Titus 3
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<input type="checkbox"/> 1/12: Gen. 21	<input type="checkbox"/> 6/19: Is. 40	<input type="checkbox"/> 8/11: Luke 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 10/3: 1 Co. 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 11/25: Heb. 2
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