

**WE  
NEED  
TO  
BE  
BIBLE-  
ENGAGED**

*Let's do it!*



# USING BIBLE ENGAGEMENT PROJECT @ *Sandy* ASSEMBLY OF GOD

We've chosen to use Bible Engagement Project as the primary curriculum for our Connect Groups because:

1. We want our Connect Groups to have a healthy, reliable, and realistic way of engaging with scripture and with each other, and
2. We want our Connect Groups to have easy access to great materials.

Bible Engagement Project lessons come already prepared so you don't have to write lessons (or take a crash course in teaching and Bible Study).

**Week 2 Training**

*Using*

[ **B** ]

BIBLE  
ENGAGEMENT  
PROJECT



## *What exactly is Bible Engagement Project?*

Bible Engagement Project is a whole-church Bible curriculum that equips users with digital Bible Study resources and children's curriculum with the goal of engaging the whole church in the Bible.

The goal is "to see churches committed to knowing God's Word with new clarity" through an age-aligned, community-based approach.

We believe those who call Sandy Assembly of God home should have a biblical worldview shaped by a growing passion for scripture so that we can also all do well to share God's Word with the world.

After all, our mission is to:

*Reach  
the Lost* + *Disciple  
the Found*



*Let's hear it straight from Bible  
Engagement Project...*

## *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 worldview, 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***



### ***How does it work?***

We love the approach Bible Engagement Project (BEP) is using!

If you want more details, check out page 4 of BEP's *Listen Adult Small Group Bible Study Facilitator Guide*, but here's the basic idea:

BEP is following the process we see in Jesus' interactions with the travelers on the Road to Emmaus in Luke 24:13-35.

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.

***-Bible Engagement Project***

We want those in our Connect Groups to do the same thing the travelers did:

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



## »» *Where do we start?*

The first part of the BEP curriculum we're going to use is actually called "Listen." Over the course of forty sessions, it systematically walks Connect Groups through the entire Bible.

We've got to get a handle on the big picture of scripture if we're going to get where we want to go, and *Listen* is going to help us do that!

## »» *Give me details! Is this a book or something?*

Kind of. But not quite. The entire *Listen* library includes videos for your group to watch, discussion questions for your group to consider, scriptures for your group to examine, and daily readings and devotions for your Connect Group members to use throughout the week on their own or with their families.

Remember, we want the whole congregation engaged with the Bible, including our kids and grandkids.

The curriculum is not lecture based.

Instead, it focuses on helping "guide users to discover the truth of the Bible on their own and listen to what the Holy Spirit is speaking to them through the Scriptures" (*BEP Facilitator Guide*, pg. 30). We want people approaching it thoughtfully, slow to speak and quick to ask questions.



We encourage all Connect Group Leaders to read the *BEP Facilitator Guide* (available in the BEP app). It contains a thorough walk-through of the *Listen Adult Small Group Bible Study*, including lots of practical this-is-what-we're-doing-and-why-we-do-it information. It also contains tons of practical tips for how to do well at facilitating discussion and learning through Bible Engagement Project in the small group environment.

## »» *Why are we providing so much training?*

We want this to work! And we want you to get the most out of this experience you possibly can! We really believe Connect Groups done well using Bible Engagement Project's materials the way they are intended to be used will accomplish some really amazing things in all our lives and will help us do well to advance the Kingdom of God.

## »» *Why can't we use just any study right now?*

Well, we guess you *could*, but we want to use Connect Groups as an opportunity to align our church around tackling a very specific, relevant, but challenging discipleship goal: addressing biblical illiteracy.

Perhaps you've come a long way in your understanding of Scripture. Maybe you've been studying it for years. Maybe so have all your friends -- you know, the ones you were planning on inviting into your Connect Group.

We believe that working through Bible Engagement Project will help you stay sensitive to the kinds of questions and discipleship needs the people you could minister to currently have. You see, if you're operating from a position of strength and maturity as a Christian, you are the one who needs to be reaching out to disciple others who are not as far along in their Christian journey.

Bible Engagement Project will help you stay sharp in this regard.

## »» *How do I get Bible Engagement Project?*

On an app! That's right! you can download it straight to your phone or tablet from the App Store or Google Play.

The app is jam-packed with amazing resources, and we're not going to be printing and distributing anything to Connect Groups. Leaders can pull it right up on their phones and Connect Group members will be able to follow along, answer questions, and keep up with weekly readings together while apart thanks to the wonders of modern technology.



App Store



Google Play



## *What does the app do?*

The app contains a library of all the Bible Engagement Project Curriculum, as well as a copy of the Bible (so you don't have to switch between apps if that helps you out), a place to take notes (if you're not using your own paper notes), and a digital community where you can post messages and interact with others at Sandy Assembly of God regarding the curriculum.

Have a question about the material? Post it for your church to help answer!

Have a testimony because of your study? Tell it to the church!

Have an amazing observation? Something you've never seen before and now you're really excited? Share it with your church!

Don't want the whole church to see?

You can create a sub-group message board just for interacting with your Connect Group. (What a great way to stay connected with your Connect Group too! You can post prayer requests or other needs there too.)

*Before we go any further, let's get some kind of uncomfortable questions out of the way...*



## *What if I don't want to use an app?*

If you don't have a smart phone or want to use an app then you can still participate. It's going to be tough for you to lead a group without access to the curriculum, but you can certainly participate in a Connect Group!

Meet with your group, watch the lesson together, and answer the questions your leader presents. You can still participate in the discussion, take your own notes, and snag the week's scripture readings from another group member.



## *What if I'm not very technologically inclined and I'm not sure I can do it?*

You can!

We have tons of tutorial videos you can watch if you need. They break it all down step by step. We can help you too. (This is a training, after all!)

As always, James 1:5 also applies:

*"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."*

*Okay, back to business!*

### **»»** *Let's download it now!*

If you're in in-person training, turn your attention to the screen. The video you watch is going to walk you through this and your presenter will be there to help.

If you're doing this online or through email, watch the *App Installation* video or follow the *App Installation* video link that has been provided to you.

### **»»** *Let's practice too!*

If you're in in-person training, your presenter is going to show you a video about using the app and walk you through the various aspects of a typical *Listen Adult Small Group Bible Study* lesson.

If you're doing this online or through email, please watch the *App Overview* video now. You'll see how this works!



## » *Okay, that was a lot of training. Now what?*

Now you're going to spend a week working through the first lesson in *Listen Adult Small Group Bible Study*.

We want you to pretend you've just had your first Connect Group (the study part, not the fun interacting-with-all-your-friends-part, though if you were doing this in-person, hopefully you just sat through training with some pretty fun people!), and now you're going home to do the daily devotionals.

Read along, do the homework, and see how it works.

If you hit any snags or have any questions, jot them down and bring them to training next week so we can help you with them.

We really do want you to be as successful with this as possible.

Thanks for committing to training. You're amazing! And we believe God has some incredible testimonies in store for you and the people you minister to through Connect Groups!

*Now's the time! Grab an application to be a Connect Group Leader as you head out the door.*



## Connect Group Training Schedule

Wednesdays at 7 pm

Week 1, March 16: A Vision & A Plan to Get There



Week 2, March 23: Using Bible Engagement Project

Week 3, March 30: Communication of Culture & Message

Week 4, April 6: Practical Group Dynamics

Week 5, April 13: Commissioning Service

Week after Easter, April 18-24: Connect Groups Launch!

*Mark your calendar!*

# Now go home and do your homework.

*See you back  
next week!*

**In the meantime, let us know if you have any questions**

**Email:**

**Pastor Joel Morris | [joel@sandyassembly.church](mailto:joel@sandyassembly.church)**

**Pastor Larry Topliff | [larry@sandyassembly.church](mailto:larry@sandyassembly.church)**

**Or call the church office: 503.668.5589**

