



Curriculum



SAMPLE

Be Open to Jesus: A study in Mark

Open Eyes
Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Ears

A sample of the *Be Open to Jesus* curriculum begins on the following page.



LEARN: Overview

Biblical Business Training (“BBT”) equips people to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and empowers leaders in a small-group Bible study setting to apply Biblical principles at work. Our mission is [Faith for Work](#) – and our vision is [Leadership for Life!](#)

To find out more, visit www.B-B-T.org.



Curriculum: The *BBT 1-2-3™* Format

BBT curriculum is rooted in Scripture and applicable the day you study it. The *BBT 1-2-3™* format enables the group to have a consistent Biblical basis for discussion.



1. Agenda – Introduces applicable Biblical principles



2. Group Leader Guide – Facilitates discussion and allows for shared leadership



3. Recap – Encourages community and application



LIVE: Sample *Be Open to Jesus, a study in Mark*

This volume of BBT Curriculum asks you to be open to Christ – to open your eyes, hearts, minds and ears to the work, power, and glory of Christ Jesus.

1. **Open Eyes**
2. **Open Hearts**
3. **Open Minds**
4. **Open Ears**

No book is needed.



LEAD: Start a small-group Bible study

Start leading today! [Learn more.](#)



PRAYERS



LEARN

Breaking the Cycle

Every year, thousands of Hondurans flee their homeland seeking change for the better. Children are often left behind and must find ways to survive. Many join gangs or find other places where there is strength in numbers but not necessarily positive role models.

The founders of [Mission Lazarus](#) shared a story about breaking the cycle of poverty. “Bryan Lagos was just a child when his parents left him with his grandparents in rural Honduras to seek work in another country. He hasn’t heard from them since. Bryan couldn’t afford school, so he could try to find a job doing backbreaking manual labor for a mere \$7 per day or join a gang like some of his friends. Fortunately, he found [Mission Lazarus](#) and learned how to apply faith in his life. Since graduating junior high school, he now earns enough to support his grandparents and put himself through public high school on the weekends.”¹ Bryan’s life was changed and now he is choosing to help change the lives of others.

Remember

When life seems tangled, when nothing seems to work out, when there seems to be no answer for the terrible losses or cruelty, remember how God works all things together for good – even through the rejection, suffering, and death of His glorious Son. When the weights are heavy upon you, remember how deep the Father’s love for His Son, and how great their sacrifice for you.

Like the disciples, there are sometimes things in the Bible and in life that confuse us. We desire answers, but God simply wants us to trust Him “while we wait for our great hope and the coming of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ” ([Titus 2:13](#)). What will it take for you to trust God in all circumstances?



LIVE

Discussion questions: Read the text and scriptures below and prepare to answer the questions.

1. Read [Mark 9:1-13](#). In what ways does this passage encourage you?
2. Read [Malachi 4:4-6](#) and [Deuteronomy 18:15](#). What was the significance of Moses and Elijah joining Jesus on the mountain?
3. Re-read [Mark 9:5-6](#). When have you been like Peter, excitedly jumping ahead of Jesus’ timeframe?
4. Re-read [Mark 9:9-10](#). When the pieces of life just don’t seem to add up, how do these verses offer a fresh perspective?
5. Re-read [Mark 9:11-13](#) and [Matthew 17:11-13](#). How do these verses shed light on how the values of the world are different from the values of God’s eternal kingdom?

Application Question: How will you open your mind this week to God’s plans rather than your own expectations?



PRAYERS

Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer

¹ J. and A. Brown (email communication, December 7, 2018) tells the story of how Bryan Lagos’ life was changed by Mission Lazarus; <https://www.missionlazarus.org/>.



PRAYERS

Opening Prayer & Prayer Requests



LEARN

Before you begin, read the AGENDA LEARN introduction together and review the APPLICATION QUESTION from the previous meeting's RECAP.



LIVE

Discussion Questions: Have someone read each Bible verse aloud and then ask the corresponding question. Be sure everyone has enough time to find the Scripture before the verse is read.

1) Read [Mark 9:1-13](#). In what ways does this passage encourage you?



To bear the cross, Christians must see the glory of Christ. Those inspiring glimpses of the end of our journey give us strength for the hard work of bearing our cross.



Jesus had begun teaching the disciples about the coming cross and they would watch Jesus be rejected and suffer. Soon it would seem no one claimed Jesus as God's Messiah and yet, on that mountain, His face literally shone upon them (see [Numbers 6:25](#)). Be sure you understand that Jesus didn't morph out of humanity into something else. It's more that He morphed out of mortality and into the undisguised glory of God which was always His. Also, this light of God didn't descend upon Jesus. It shone out from within Him. He is the glory of God! He is alive with light.



Facilitate a brief discussion. You might ask, "What does this reveal about God's timing and His heart for encouraging His people?"

Notes:

2) Read [Malachi 4:4-6](#) and [Deuteronomy 18:15](#). What was the significance of Moses and Elijah joining Jesus on the mountain?



Elijah and Moses display that all the plans and promises of God, across all the centuries of waiting (the Old Testament), came down to Jesus Christ.



God told Israel to remember the law of Moses so they would be ready for Christ's coming and the symbols and ceremonies Moses taught would be fresh in their hearts when Jesus came to fulfill and personify them. Moses had set before Israel all these powerful symbols of the coming Christ and now there he was, now talking with the living Word of God. Elijah was a prophet who called God's people back to God, to prepare the way for the Lord, warning them to repent and promising God's grace. He was much like Jesus in that he worked miracles, was rejected and alone. He too did not die but was carried to heaven in a chariot of fire and many believed Jesus to be Elijah returning.

Notes:

3) Re-read [Mark 9:5-6](#). When have you been like Peter, excitedly jumping ahead of Jesus' timeframe?



Peter thought seeing Moses and Elijah meant this was the end and he was ready to set up a base camp for worship in God's new kingdom.



It didn't occur to Peter that this was a temporary situation and that the big ending was still yet to come. Jesus was trying to prepare them for what was to come, his death on the cross, by giving them something to remember – the glory of God.



Talk about a time you lost sight of God's plan and got caught up in something new or exciting only to realize later you missed a bigger opportunity.

Notes:

4) Re-read [Mark 9:9-10](#). When the pieces of life just don't seem to add up, how do these verses offer a fresh perspective?



Often, we don't understand what God is doing, but this helps us see we can trust Him in the waiting and be confident that He has the answer.



Having just seen Jesus in all His glory, along with two long-gone men who were gloriously alive, it was hard for the disciples to understand Jesus talking about rising from the dead. How could this Jesus, so blindingly alive, possibly die? How could He die in any normal sense of the word when the God who loved Him as His Son had just told them to listen to Him? This would not add up for them until after Jesus died, rose, and began to teach them how all the pieces fit together.

Notes:

5) Re-read [Mark 9:11-13](#) and [Matthew 17:11-13](#). How do these verses shed light on how the values of the world are different from the values of God's eternal kingdom?



The disciples were experiencing the full weightiness of faith as they tried to comprehend why and how their king who had come to deliver them would suffer and die.



Neither the glory of Christ, nor the prophecies of the Old Testament, nor the full extent of God's love for His Son would be clear until Jesus suffered, died and rose from the dead. Then the disciples' worldly expectations of a king to deliver them from physical and political suffering would be replaced with new eyes and hearts that understood deliverance from sin for eternity.

Notes:



Application Question: How will you open your mind this week to God's plans rather than your own expectations?



PRAYERS

Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer



LEAD

Ask Yourself: How will I lead from trust in God amid confusion and/or lack of answers?

PLEASE NOTE: This is study 3 of 4. What will you consider next? Consult a [BBT Coach](#) for suggestions.



PRAYERS

-
-
-
-
-



ROADMAP

This **BBT** volume of curriculum asks you to be open to Christ – to open your eyes, hearts, minds and ears. This lesson seeks to help you open your mind to what lies beyond your present circumstances as you trust His power and plan is at work.



LEARN

Jesus' appearance on the mountain, beaming with the light of God would help the disciples deal with the hard times and struggles that were soon to come. The appearance of Moses and Elijah alongside of Jesus told the disciples that he was the culmination of God's plan begun long ago. Despite all this, however, the disciples were still not ready to hear the true nature of how Jesus would be the savior of the world through his own suffering and death.

Scripture References for this study: [Mark 9:1-13](#), [Malachi 4:4-6](#), [Deuteronomy 18:15](#) and [Matthew 17:11-13](#)



LIVE

- Opening my mind to God's Light
- Opening my mind to God's Plan
- Opening my mind to God's Savior

Application Question: How will you open your mind this week to God's plans rather than your own expectations?



LEAD

Ask Yourself: How will I lead from trust in God amid confusion and/or lack of answers?