

# Curriculum



## ***Circle of Influence***

Circle of Influence

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A sample of *Circle of Influence* begins on the following page.

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**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](http://www.B-B-T.org).

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**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.



Agenda – Introduces applicable Biblical principles



Group Leader Guide – Facilitates discussion and allows for shared leadership



Recap – Encourages community and application

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**LIVE: Sample – Circle of Influence**

This [BBT volume of curriculum](#) helps us take an objective look at our influence and the impact not only on our lives but the lives of others. It was adapted with permission from [The Lion Within Us](#) – Choosing Your Circle: The Power of Influence.

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**LEAD: Start a small-group Bible study**

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

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Circle of Influence



PRAYERS



LEARN

**Enthusiastic Fan**

When was the last time you attended a sporting event? The sights, smells, sounds possibly even the clothes you wore all contributed to the enthusiasm and contagious rush of unity you probably felt. Even if you weren't all cheering for the same team, you were all still assembling to collectively support something. The same could be true for the theatre, running marathons or any other shared common interests that people have. We find enthusiasm in unity, energy in comradeship, and contentment in belonging. But did you wake up that morning all of a sudden a fan of that team, or ready to run a marathon? Probably it happened more gradually than that. Maybe your friend or co-worker invited you, or maybe it was just something you did as a family for as long as you can remember. Regardless, you were likely influenced or encouraged at some point, by someone to spend time enjoying that specific interest.

**Influenced Walk**

What about your daily life? Are your decisions being influenced only by people walking in unison with you or do you have people in your life who challenge you to think differently? Are you making decisions in a way that honors God? For example, nobody wakes up and says "I'm going to begin embezzling this bank" or "I'm going to start down the path of addiction" but it happens. These decisions are part of a process and can be the result of a pattern of your habits, decisions and people regularly speaking into your life. Are you willing to objectively look at your circle of influence and determine if you are heading towards the goal of giving God the honor and glory in all you do?



LIVE

**Discussion questions:** Read the text and scripture provided and prepare to answer the questions.

1. Read [Psalm 1](#). Give an example of how the group you "walk in step, stand or sit" with influenced a decision or behavior, positively or negatively?
2. Re-read [Psalm 1](#). Explain which is harder for you: to stop doing something you know God doesn't want for you, or *not* do something you know God wants you to do?
3. Re-read [Psalm 1:2](#). When have you experienced a disconnect in mutual "delight in the law of the Lord" amidst your circles and what changes have you had to make.
4. Read [Mark 2:13-17](#) and [Luke 6:7-12](#). Do you have different circles of influence and how are your intentions and behaviors the same or different in each?

Application Question: How will you be more intentional about the influence you are giving and receiving?



PRAYERS

**Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer**

**Circle of Influence**



**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 [Psalm 1](#). Give an example of how the group you “walk in step, stand or sit” with influenced a decision or behavior, positively or negatively?**



POINT

We are directly impacted by those we surround ourselves with, and it can be good or bad.



DEEPER

It is important to have clarity with God on the plans for your life and know that it won't ever be something that goes against what the scriptures say. Think about your workplace settings, your social settings and take an audit of the different ways you behave and where you are most susceptible to influence away from God. Seeking wisdom and guidance based on truth is critical for moving forward in behavior that glorifies God.



TIP

Read this Psalm in at least three different versions. Ex. [NIV](#), [NLT](#) and [MSG](#)

**Notes:**

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- 2) **Re-read [Psalm 1](#). Explain which is harder for you: to stop doing something you know God doesn't want for you, or *not* do something you know God wants you to do?**



POINT

Sins of commission (committing a sinful act) and omission (*not* doing what is commanded) are equally self-centered, not God-centered.



DEEPER

We are constantly fighting for control with God. It may be easier to see what we need to stop rather than where we need to take action. For example, God calls us to engage with sinners, to share the gospel, to try and re-direct when temptations arise. But, the intent is to remain walking in step with God, not be influenced by those who are not and end up “standing in the way that sinners take or sitting in the company of mockers” (v.1)



TIP

For more on practical strategies on resisting temptations that lead to sin, try the [Faith that Works curriculum](#).

**Notes:**

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**Circle of Influence**

3) **Re-read [Psalm 1:2](#). When have you experienced a disconnect in mutual “delight in the law of the Lord” amidst your circles and what changes have you had to make.**



God has clear boundaries for freedom from sin and we have to intentionally let them guide us and help us positively influence others.



There are rules in all aspects of life but we are given the choice to obey, or not. Pride, selfishness, temptation, the influence of others, all have the power to keep us from consciously choosing to stay in line with God’s will. But God’s truth helps us choose wisely, resist temptations and be a positive influence on others.

**Notes:**

4) **Read [Mark 2:13-17](#) and [Luke 6:47-49](#). Do you have different circles of influence and how are your intentions and behaviors the same or different in each?**



Transparent, vulnerable and authentic is how Jesus was with everyone, no matter who or where they were.



Those with whom we interact with at work may influence us differently than those with whom we play. But no matter the group or the level of influence, if God isn’t being glorified, you may be on a path that “leads to destruction” ([Psalm 1:6](#))



Jesus never sinned, but we are more easily influenced. Be aware of your circles and how they are helping you grow in faith and influencing others for God’s glory.

**Notes:**

Application Question: How will you be more intentional about the influence you are giving and receiving?



**PRAYERS**

**Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer**



**LEAD**

**Ask Yourself: What boundaries do I need to set for myself to create more Godly influence?**

**Circle of Influence**

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**PRAYERS**

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**ROADMAP**

This [BBT volume of curriculum](#) helps us take an objective look at our influence and the impact not only on our lives but the lives of others.

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**LEARN**

God offers instruction for choosing wisely. The battle of good and evil is constant and our actions reflect our choices. Seeking God first is pleasing and brings fruit and blessing while the way of the sinner is offensive and brings destruction.

Scripture References for this study: [Psalm 1](#), [Mark 2:13-17](#) and [Luke 6:47-49](#).

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**LIVE**

- Influence from others
- Influence for others
- Influence of God

Application Question: How will you be more intentional about the influence you are giving and receiving?

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**LEAD**

**Ask Yourself:** What boundaries do I need to set for myself to create more Godly influence?

Sample