

# Curriculum



## ***Easter Realities***

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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).



### Curriculum: The *BBT 1-2-3™* Format

BBT's curriculum is Biblically-based and applicable the day you study it. The *BBT 1-2-3™* format enables the group to consistently fit a meeting into a busy work week (e.g. before work or over a lunch hour, etc.). The Agenda and Recap are sent through Go!Connect to help group members prepare and continue discussion for accountability.



**Agenda** – Introduces applicable Biblical principles



**Group Leader Guide** – Facilitates discussion and allows for shared leadership



**Recap** – Encourages community and application



### LIVE: Apply Biblical principles at work

Small group discussion begins typically with prayer, reading the Agenda together for context, then reading scripture and discussing the included questions. Questions are chosen to help the members in the study apply the scripture to their workplace and lives through group discussion. The Application Question is for group application and accountability between meetings.

**Sample discussion question:** Read Nehemiah 7:1-3. What do these verses teach you about delegation?

**Sample application question:** In what areas of your life have you been encouraged to do some humble self-evaluation and practice repentance?



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

The Lead question is for holistic life application at work, home, church, and in the community.

**Sample lead question:** Ask Yourself: How can I have the courage to face opposition, engage in necessary confrontation, and encourage others where God has placed me?

#### Learn more at:

Curriculum Samples: <https://b-b-t.org/curriculum/>

Contact a Coach: <https://b-b-t.org/coaching/>

Start Leading: <https://b-b-t.org/startleading/>



## PRAYERS



## LEARN

**Outrageous Sacrifice**

In his book *Everybody's Normal Till You Get to Know Them*, John Ortberg tells the story of a boy named John Gilbert who was diagnosed with Duchenne's Muscular Dystrophy. As his disease progressed, he couldn't run, then couldn't walk, and then couldn't even speak, dying at age 25. But there were good times in John Gilbert's short life. Once when he was invited to a fundraising auction, he saw a basketball signed by all the Sacramento Kings players. He really wanted that ball.

When bidding began, he raised his hand offering more money than he ever could have paid. His mother grabbed his hand and pulled it down. Finally, one bidder offered a price so outrageously high that all the other bidders just let him have it. The high bidder walked up to claim his very expensive basketball. But, instead of returning to his seat, he went across the room and gave it to John. Later, as John reflected on that moment he said, "It took me a moment to realize what the man had done. I remember hearing gasps all around the room, then the glorious applause and weeping eyes. To this day I'm amazed."

Have you ever received a gift you could never afford? Has anyone ever sacrificed outrageously for you without any strings attached?

**The Ultimate Sacrifice**

Jesus did exactly that. For you. On the cross, Jesus bore the weight of humanity's sin. Having never known sin Himself, He willingly faced its full force. God laid upon him the concentrated burden of every sin of every person from every generation, past, present and future.

[2 Corinthians 5:21](#) says, "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." Jesus voluntarily suffered to give sinners salvation and eternal life. The ultimate sacrifice and act of love – by Him, for you!



## LIVE

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

1. Read [Matthew 27:11-18](#) and [Luke 23](#). Describe a situation where you felt you needed to retaliate or defend yourself. What strikes you about Jesus' response?
2. Read [Matthew 27:19-26](#). What kind of crowd mentalities are shaping your choices? How aware are you of the consequences that may come from your group-think decisions?
3. Read [Matthew 1:21](#), [Isaiah 53:4-9](#) and [Matthew 27:27-31](#). As you reflect on the torture Jesus endured for you – how will you think of your choices differently now when faced with temptation?
4. Read [Matthew 27:32-61](#). There are a lot of noteworthy sacrifices in this passage - big and small. What sacrifices are you making, big or small, that are helping others better understand the sacrificial love of Jesus?
5. Read [Luke 24:1-35](#). What evidence of the resurrection do you cling to and why?

**Application Question:** What reality of Easter resonates most with you and who in your life could benefit from hearing this truth?



## PRAYERS



## 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 [Matthew 27:11-18](#) and [1 Peter 2:23](#). Describe a situation when you felt you needed to retaliate or defend yourself. What strikes you about Jesus' response?



Jesus simply stood in silence, even as his accusers pressed in and Pilate asked for His defense.



It's not so easy for us to keep silent, especially if we know what may come of us, as Jesus did. His accusers had already made up their minds and Jesus already knew He would be condemned to death. But Peter watched as Jesus obeyed His Father's will, choosing to suffer quietly, loving us more than defending His innocence.

Notes:

- 2) Read [Matthew 27:19-26](#). What kind of crowd mentalities are shaping your choices? How aware are you of the consequences that may come from your group-think decisions?



Jesus was innocent, it had already been an unfair trial with no defense by Jesus, yet He was condemned to flogging and crucifixion.



Have you ever heard the idiom, "The squeaky wheel gets the grease?" Does it remind you of the news feeds of today? Pilate knew Jesus was innocent and that it was just a political movement. The Jewish leaders were threatened by Jesus and wanted Him killed. Pilate tried to appease the crowd by giving them a choice – the same choice we have to make every day – accept Jesus or oppose Him. But the party against Jesus was in an uproar and they chose against Him.



To facilitate further discussion you might ask, "How does the crowd you hang with or the feeds you read influence your choices towards Biblical values?"

Notes:

- 3) Read [Matthew 1:21](#), [Isaiah 53:4-9](#) and [Matthew 27:27-31](#). As you reflect on the torture Jesus endured for you – how will you think of your choices differently now when faced with temptation?



Jesus' sacrifice was necessary, and He did it voluntarily so that we would be forgiven and restored to a right relationship with God.



Isaiah 53 was written 1,000 years before Jesus was born yet reveals how God would win against sin and death. But the reality of the process that Jesus voluntarily endured by the Roman soldiers is hard to imagine – naked, bloody, and near death even before hanging with hands and feet nailed to the wood fighting to breathe. But “the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.” (Isaiah: 5b)

Notes:

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- 4) Read [Matthew 27:32-61](#). There are a lot of noteworthy sacrifices in this passage - big and small. What sacrifices are you making, big or small, that are helping others better understand the sacrificial love of Jesus?



Jesus sacrificed His life for our salvation but there are plenty of small sacrifices we can make on a daily basis that demonstrate sacrificial love to others.



Jesus choosing to give His life for the sins of the world is most noteworthy. But don't miss the smaller sacrifices like Simon who carried the cross for Jesus on the way to Golgotha, the women watching from the distance who came to care for Jesus when they could, and Joseph of Arimathea who secured Jesus' body and had him buried in the tomb he had purchased for himself.



To facilitate further discussion you might ask, “A Pagan centurion's response to the events that followed Jesus' death is also noted as the only one to recognize Jesus' identity. How are your sacrifices helping others recognize Christ?”

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- 5) Read [Luke 24:1-35](#). What evidence of the resurrection do you cling to and why?



The resurrection of Jesus proves the power of God to defeat sin and death, without it there is no hope.



Jesus' resurrection was hard for his family, friends, and followers physically present at the time to fathom, but we see the hope in Peter's response as he runs to the tomb to see for himself. Everyone has an opinion but Peter wanted the facts. Jesus himself brought people back to life during His time on earth and even today there are documented stories and experiences.

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Application Question: What reality of Easter resonates most with you and who in your life could benefit from hearing this truth?

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**PRAYERS**

**Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer**

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**LEAD**

**Ask Yourself: How am I living each day in response to the sacrifice Jesus made for my sins?**

Sample



**PRAYERS**

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**LEARN**

Peter watched as Jesus entrusted himself to God who justly judges. Pilate and his wife knew Jesus was innocent but placed the responsibility on the crowd. Jesus accomplished the will of the Father. He made the ultimate sacrifice by taking on the sins of the world and conquering death for our salvation.

Scripture references for this study: [2 Corinthians 5:21](#), [Matthew 1:21, 27:11-61](#), [1 Peter 2:23](#), [Isaiah 53:4-9](#), and [Luke 24:1-35](#)



**LIVE**

- Powerful silence
- Poignant choices
- Proven love

Application Question: What reality of Easter resonates most with you and who in your life could benefit from hearing this truth?



**LEAD**

**Ask Yourself:** How am I living each day in response to the sacrifice Jesus made for my sins?

Sample