



## The “*BBT 1-2-3*™” Sample Curriculum

### *GOD IN THE MARKETPLACE* By Henry Blackaby and Richard Blackaby

#### **6. How do I maintain a devotional life when I’m constantly traveling?**

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A sample of the BBT curriculum begins on the following page.

##### BBT Overview

BBT provides Biblical leadership development and curriculum to small-group Bible study leaders, helping them grow in their relationship with Christ and equipping them to pour into the lives of others. BBT is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization which exists help people develop their Christian “Faith for Work-Leadership for Life!”

The ministry focus of BBT is developing leaders through small-group Bible studies. BBT groups meet at work, near work (e.g., restaurants, coffee shops, etc.), or at a local church. BBT provides leaders with curriculum that is focused on practical work situations to help participants directly apply Biblical principles to what they do every day ...

To find out more, visit [www.B-B-T.org](http://www.B-B-T.org).

##### BBT Curriculum: “The *BBT 1-2-3*™”

BBT curriculum is rooted in Scripture and applicable the day you study it. The *BBT 1-2-3*™ curriculum structure (1-Agenda, 2-Group Leader Guide, and 3-Recap) enables the group to have a consistent Biblical basis for discussion during the meetings and connectivity in between.

This sample is taken from the “God In The Marketplace” study, based on the book of the same title by Henry and Richard Blackaby. We encourage participants to read the chapter from the book and to review the questions from the agenda prior to their BBT. Books may be purchased online through Amazon or Barnes & Noble – or download an e-book through iBooks or Kindle.

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Meeting Preparation

In preparation for your next meeting, please invest time in the following:

- A. Pray for your understanding of God's word and for your BBT.
- B. Review the application question from the previous agenda.
- C. Read this chapter of *GOD IN THE MARKETPLACE*.
- D. Read the scriptures below and answer the associated discussion questions.

Meeting Agenda

- A. Opening Prayer
- B. Reading References and Discussion Questions
  1. Read Joshua 1:5-9. Traveling for work can be very lonely. Even when your co-workers are traveling with you, they may not share your Christian values and may try to pull you in a different direction. How do these words of God, spoken to Joshua, encourage you to maintain your study of the Bible?
  2. Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-20. The next time you board a flight, bus or train:
    - a. How should you regard those around you?
    - b. How does being an ambassador for Christ affect your behavior?
  3. Read Galatians 5:22-26. What would airports, security lines, train stations, tollbooths, parking garages, hotel front desks, etc. look like if the fruit of the Spirit was evident there? What role can you play in making this a reality?
- C. Application Question:

Blackaby suggests using flight time to study the Bible or listen to Christian music, etc. Keeping the TV off in your hotel room can have many benefits. Visiting local churches or BBTs while traveling will also keep you connected to other Christians. What will be your plan to stay focused on learning God's Word and living in God's will while traveling for work?
- D. Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer

**Share BBT! Invite someone you know to come with you next week.**

## GROUP LEADER GUIDE

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Agenda Question #1: Read Joshua 1:5-9. Traveling for work can be very lonely. Even when your co-workers are traveling with you, they may not share your Christian values and may try to pull you in a different direction. How do these words of God spoken to Joshua encourage you to maintain your study of the Bible? Consider Joshua, he had 'huge sandals' to fill; he succeeded Moses – the same Moses God called a prophet and the same Moses, God knew face to face (see Deuteronomy 34:10). Consider the daunting task before Joshua. The task before Joshua was to “cause this people to inherit the land” (Joshua 1:6). So if anyone needed encouragement for leading a huge throng of nomadic or traveling people, Joshua did! So, God charges Joshua with three responsibilities: (1) to be strong and courageous (repeated in vv. 6, 9 and repeated with emphasis in vs. 7); (2) to not be frightened or dismayed and; (3) to be careful to do and meditate day and night on the law of God. Meditating on the law *day and night* here means to constantly think about God's word with the intentions of doing it or living it out. Joshua was to make the study of God's word his obsession. Joshua was to make God's word integral to who he was and what he did. God's charge to be “strong and very courageous” (vs. 7) in leading this people would be overwhelming if it were not for God's two promises: “I will not leave you or forsake you” (vs. 5) and “the Lord your God is with you wherever you go” (vs. 9). The same God who traveled with Joshua will travel with us.

Agenda Question #2: Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-20. The next time you board a flight, bus or train:

- a) How should you regard those around you? The Apostle Paul often tells us what God, through Christ, has done for us and then Paul follows with what we should do in response to Christ's work. In other words, Christ's death erased our sin penalty (see 5:14-15); this gracious Christ-act provides us the motivation to live in such a way that the love of Christ controls us (see 5:14-15 ESV). So as a result of being exonerated from the penalty of sin and as a result of Christ's love controlling us, we are called to look at mankind differently. Before his conversion, Paul regarded Christ as a false messiah because he judged Christ by worldly standards and values. Now, Paul regards not only Christ differently, but mankind too. Now Paul does not judge men and women based on their external appearances (like nationality); rather, Paul judges mankind based on the Christian-unbeliever distinction. Paul learned that nationality was important; and gender was important; but he learned that the Christian-unbeliever distinction is far more important. In sum, Paul learned to show empathy to both Christian and unbeliever alike. Paul learned to pray for Christians and unbelievers. The next time you travel, ask the Holy Spirit to enable you as a new<sup>1</sup> creation in Christ to show empathy to, and to pray for those around you.
- b) How does being an ambassador for Christ affect your behavior? Before Christ, we were enemies of God and estranged from God. Now, because of God's saving activity in Christ, we have been reconciled (or have been restored) to God. As a result of being reconciled, we have been given the ministry of reconciliation and we have been enlisted to serve as Christ's ambassadors. In our contemporary context, an ambassador is one who is a personal representative of sovereigns of state and who lives in a foreign country. However, in the New Testament (see also Ephesians 6:20), ambassador means “to be, work or, travel as an envoy.”<sup>2</sup> God not only called Paul to travel as an envoy and to carry the message of reconciliation – a capsulized version of the gospel message – but God calls us to travel as an envoy of this message too. As envoys, we must speak this message of reconciliation but most importantly, we must *live out* the implications of this message of reconciliation as we travel. See Agenda Question #3 on how to live out the implications of this message of reconciliation.

Agenda Question #3: Read Galatians 5:22-26:

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<sup>1</sup> Here “new” means what new in nature, different from the usual, impressive, better than and more superior in kind to the old.

<sup>2</sup> See J. D. Douglass and M. C. Tenney, *The New International Dictionary of the Bible*, Pictorial Edition, Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1987, p. 40.

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- a) What would airports, security lines, train stations, tollbooths, parking garages, hotel front desks, etc. look like if the fruit of the Spirit was evident there? In Galatians 5:13-6:10 Paul contrasts what living by the sinful nature (or 'flesh') and living by the Holy Spirit looks like. To live by the sinful nature means to be controlled or guided by the sinful nature (and its passions and desires); similarly to live by the Holy Spirit means to be controlled or guided by the Holy Spirit (and His passions and desires). Living by our sinful nature produces 'rotten fruit' – see Galatians 5:19-21; while living by the Spirit produces good and luscious fruit – see Galatians 5:22-26. Now imagine what airports, security lines, train stations, tollbooths, parking garages, hotel front desks would look like if we asked the Holy Spirit to enable us to walk in line behind Him (vs. 25); those near us would benefit from the fruit of:
- a. *love* - a love that reflects the character and unconditional-other centered love of God;
  - b. *joy* - to have a rejoicing and 'glass half full' disposition in spite of outward circumstances;
  - c. *peace* - a product of God reconciling us to Himself; so we are called to be peaceful toward others;
  - d. *patience* - to be long tempered or to take a long time to lose your cool;
  - e. *kindness* - to be helpful to others;
  - f. *goodness* – to express generosity to others in words and deeds;
  - g. *faithfulness* - to be reliable or loyal; to be a person of one's word;
  - h. *gentleness* - to show humility; and
  - i. *self-control* - to have mastery over something (e.g., our emotions, our feelings, our anger, our impatience, etc.).
- b) What role can you play in making this a reality? Ask the Holy Spirit for help. Specifically, ask the Holy Spirit continually and constantly, "Lord, I want to be a honorable ambassador for you, so help me to walk in step with you so that I can produce the fruit of the Holy Spirit wherever my travels take me."

Application Question: Blackaby suggests using flight time to study the Bible or listen to Christian music, etc. Keeping the TV off in your hotel room can have many benefits. Visiting local churches or BBTs while traveling will also keep you connected to other Christians. What will be your plan to stay focused on learning God's Word and living in God's will while traveling for work?

Besides Blackaby's suggestions, consider giving an accountability partner permission to call you at your hotel and ask, "Are you studying your Bible?" Or "Are you using this time wisely to spend time with our Lord?" Traveling can be beset with many distractions or, it can provide an excellent opportunity to catch up on Bible reading, journaling, and prayer. Traveling can also, unfortunately, provide opportunities to flirt with and to yield to sin. Ask God to help you manage the myriad of distractions, and to seize these opportunities to grow closer to our Christ and Lord. [Group Leaders are encouraged to brainstorm other suggestions with their respective BBTs.]

**SAMPLE EMAIL RECAP**

***GOD IN THE MARKETPLACE***

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**Use the sample email below to help you personalize your own recap of your last BBT.**

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Thank you for a great study. Today was a blessing! I hope that you were blessed by our time, too. During our time together, we learned about the importance and struggle to maintain a devotional life while traveling.

We learned that business travel can be a challenge. As nomadic people, Joshua knows what traveling is like; yet, God encouraged him to meditate on God's word day and night as he traveled. Remember we learned that meditating on the law day and night means to constantly think about God's Word with the intentions of doing it or living it out. Said another way, we are to make the study of God's Word our obsession. We also learned that because of Christ's finished work on our behalf, we must see and regard people differently ... and not only in terms of what *we see on the outside* which is often superficial. We also learned because of Christ's finished work that we are now given the awesome and privileged task of being His ambassadors. As His ambassadors, we take the message of reconciliation – the gospel with us, in word and deed. Finally, we learned that if we are led by the Holy Spirit, we can produce the good and luscious fruit of the Spirit wherever our travels to take us ... and this fruit includes – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness and self-control.



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Topics

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Part One: My Personal Life

1. What is God’s ultimate goal for my life as a businessperson?
2. How should I model Christ to the people I work with?
3. How can I stay strong when I’m the only Christian at my workplace?
4. How do I stay humble and still succeed in the fiercely competitive business world?
5. How can I find time for spiritual growth and study when I’m this busy?
6. How do I maintain a devotional life when I’m constantly traveling?
7. I haven’t been a very good Christian example at work. How do I start now?
8. How do I know if God is calling me out of the business world and into Christian ministry?

Part Two: My Business Life

9. How do I apply Biblical principles to my business?
10. Does God really care about my business decisions?
11. How should I pray for my business?
12. How do I honor God when I have to fire someone and make other difficult business decisions?
13. Does being a Christian change the way I develop strategies for my company and career?
14. How should I respond when a colleague is trying to undermine me?
15. How do I guard myself from temptation?
16. How do I deal with a non-Christian boss or colleague whose actions and values are unethical?
17. How does being a Christian affect the way I respond to a crisis?
18. How can I be less political and more spiritually driven in my work? (Part 1 & Part 2)
19. How do I know when it’s time to leave my present job?

Part Three: My Devotional Life

20. How can I know God’s will for my life?
21. How do I “wait on the Lord” when “time is money”?
22. What are the main purposes of prayer?
23. How do I mediate on God’s Word?
24. How can I pray for the people at work?
25. How can I get the most out of studying God’s Word and clearly understand what God is telling me?
26. How do I know when I’m hearing from God?
27. What do I do when God seems silent?
28. What does it mean to “walk in the Spirit”?
29. How can I spend enough time with God when my schedule is already full?



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Part Four: My Family Life

30. How can I balance work and family?
31. How can I be a spiritual leader to my children when business constantly takes me away from home?
32. How can I protect my marriage when the world around me is constantly assaulting it?
33. What do I do if my spouse is not walking with the Lord and doesn't support me as a spiritual leader?
34. What do I do if my marriage seems to be broken beyond repair?
35. If I wasn't a Godly parent for my children when they were young, how can I change things now?

Part Five: My Church and Community Life

36. How should I invest myself in my church?
37. How do I effectively encourage my pastor?
38. If my church is not functioning like it ought to, should I leave and find another one?
39. Should I stay at my church if they won't utilize my gifts and experience?
40. How should I become involved in my community?

Part Six: My Kingdom Life

41. How does my business fit into God's kingdom?
42. How should I use my position financially for the kingdom of God?
43. How do I develop a Godly, global vision for my life's mission?
44. How involved should I be in politics?
45. How involved should I become in social issues?