
A sample of the *Christ Plus Nothing* 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 *Christ Plus Nothing*, a study in Galatians

This volume of BBT Curriculum reveals five lenses through which we distort the gospel of Jesus Christ, for our own sake. When we bring our rules, baggage, divisions, pride, and assumptions we can’t see clearly through the lens of God’s grace.

1. **Christ + My Rules**
2. **Christ + My Baggage**
3. **Christ + My Divisions**
4. **Christ + My Pride**
5. **Christ + My Assumptions**
6. **Christ + Nothing**

No book is needed.



LEAD: Start a small-group Bible study

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



PRAYERS



LEARN

Tune-Up

Imagine, you are driving down the road and suddenly the car is pulling to the right, the steering wheel is wobbling back and forth at a high rate and you know you need to pull off to the side. You quickly look in the mirror and begin to move over when suddenly there is a loud honking. You can't get off the road, there is a car there. You get annoyed by the car hiding in your blind spot preventing you from safely getting off the road. Is this also sometimes how you live life? Have your tires, the foundational truths on which you drive through life, been neglected and fallen out of alignment? Do your blind spots prevent you from seeing the disconnect between your faith and how you live?

Forgotten

A story is told of Margaret Thatcher, when she was Prime Minister of Great Britain. She was visiting the residents of a senior citizen assisted living facility. One resident, a delightful and friendly woman, warmly welcomed her inside clearly pleased to have a visitor. They talked a while and it became obvious to the Prime Minister that her host was oblivious to being in the presence of a powerful, famous person. Thatcher said to her, "Do you know who I am?" and the woman said, "No dear, but if you ask the nurse, she will be able to tell you who you are."

One of the challenges to living the Christian faith is forgetting who and whose we are. This same struggle – forgetting and not living in line with true faith in the gospel – happened to Peter and Barnabas.

Meal Time

In the early church, some had come to believe in Jesus, but they still held fast to trying to obey all the ceremonial laws of the Old Testament. One of those rules was that Jews were not to eat food from unclean animals or eat with anyone who ate unclean food. So, according to this group, a Jew like Peter (Cephas) who was eating with the Gentiles, who often ate "unclean" food, offended God and His laws. Eating together in the 1st century was a big deal. Who you ate with was an extension of your identity. Barnabas and Peter knew better but were influenced by others and changed their behavior. Who better than Paul to confront Peter for not living in line with the gospel? However, Paul doesn't confront Peter in the manner you would expect.



LIVE

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

1. Read [Acts 10:9-16](#). What is the message in these visions for Peter?
2. Read [Galatians 2:11-13](#). When have you been tempted to compromise your values (commit hypocrisy) out of fear, pride, or a longing for acceptance?
3. Read [Galatians 2:14](#). Why is Paul's accusation so surprising?
4. Read [Galatians 2:15-18](#). How does grace change pride and the need for others' approval?
5. Read [Galatians 2:19-21](#). How does living out grace convict you from conformity?

Application Question: How does your pride negatively impact interactions with people at work?



PRAYERS

Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer



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 [Acts 10:9-16](#). What is the message in these visions for Peter?



God vividly taught Peter (a Jew) that his mission would be found in understanding the message that grace is for all people, Jew and Gentile, slave and free.



Don't we all wish for a clear message from God? One that leaves no doubt what we are to do next. Well, God's message to Peter was not subtle. Peter dreamed three times of all kinds of unclean animals on a tablecloth and the voice of Jesus told him to "kill and eat". Then, Jesus gave Peter an action item. He told Peter to go and eat with the centurion named Cornelius (a Gentile) and share with him the good news of God's grace for all people. Peter's dream helped him understand that in Christ, God shows no favoritism. Therefore, Peter knew he too should no longer favor one group of people (Jews) over another (Gentiles).



Facilitate a brief discussion. Talk about a time you have been shown favoritism or shown it to someone else.

Notes:

2) Read [Galatians 2:11-13](#). When have you been tempted to compromise your values (commit hypocrisy) out of fear, pride or a longing for acceptance?



Peter had strong convictions, a direct mission from God yet he gives into to fear of other people's judgement that leads not only himself but others into living out a different faith than the one they were professing.



Hypocrisy is the gap between what we say we believe and how we live. Peter wanted to make sure his status in Jerusalem wasn't called into question. When the group advocating for Christ + Rules sees him having lunch with Gentiles, Peter moves to kosher table, the clean food table. Peter lost his conviction and gave into peer pressure, becoming a blatant hypocrite and even leading others astray. Peter caved for the same reason we all do – the fears that keep us from getting beyond ourselves and living out the grace of Jesus. None of us are beyond a struggle with hypocrisy.



Facilitate a brief discussion. You might ask, "How can you live honestly because of God's love and acceptance?"



Notes:

3) Read [Galatians 2:14](#). Why is Paul's accusation so surprising?



Paul challenges Peter over his hypocrisy but not in self-righteous way. Instead of using Peter's failure, he reminds him of their commonality. Neither of them was chosen and accepted by God because of their race, culture or socio-economic status.



God's grace had humbled Paul's pride and he was able to approach Peter with dignity. Paul does not respond by calling Peter a racist or elitist and a prideful coward in front of everyone. Instead Paul reminds Peter and Barnabas of their calling away from Christ + Pride to reveal Christ + Nothing to the Gentiles. He spoke to what they had in common, reminding them of their unique strategies and callings from God and how they weren't living consistently with what they believe and were called to teach.



Facilitate a brief discussion: You might ask, "How does pride interfere with relationships – with God and with others?"

Notes:

4) Read [Galatians 2:15-18](#). How does grace change pride and the need for others' approval?



Before people can hear and receive God's gift of Christ + Nothing, the foundation of pride and achievement has to be replaced by humility and grace.



Paul had been ministering to Gentiles and now he is ministering to his co-workers. He is reminding them that it is not law, good deeds or anything we do, but what God has already declared in Christ. We are accepted, loved and do not need to live in fear of people. He is reminding us all that we have been justified in Christ and that his grace is not a license to pursue happiness by seeking to control our own fate and make self-destructive choices. Being loved no matter what allows for real inward transformation. Learning to live and believe this gospel message takes a lifetime of learning and un-learning.



For more on justification, sanctification, transformation and glorification – check out the [BBT](#) volume on Romans.

Notes:

5) Read [Galatians 2:19-21](#). How does living out grace convict you from conformity?



The confidence of grace helps you face the inward motivations of fear that lead to conformity and hypocrisy.



Peter is not the first and won't be the last Christian to have tendencies toward racism, nationalism and elitism where a sense of identity comes from something other than Christ. The struggle of Peter is in us all and the

sin is that we are not living in line with truth of gospel. We are all in a process of learning how to live the gospel even through our failures and spiritual blind spots.

Notes:

Application Question: How does your pride negatively impact interactions with people at work?



PRAYERS

Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer



LEAD

Ask Yourself: Where do I see disconnects between what I believe and how I live it out at work, at home at church and in my community?

PLEASE NOTE: This is study 4 of 6. What will you consider next? Consult a [BBT Coach](#) for suggestions.



PRAYERS

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ROADMAP

This **BBT** volume of curriculum reveals five lenses through which we distort the gospel of Jesus Christ for our own sake. This lesson helps us remove the lens of pride that leads us into hypocrisy and selfishness.



LEARN

God gave Peter a vision of a sheet full of clean and unclean foods being lowered from heaven in order that Peter would forgo his pride in his ethnic identity and serve people without bias. Despite this, Peter's pride led him to hypocrisy when he was confronted over eating with non-Jews. Letting go of his own pride, Paul was able to call Peter and others away from their narrow, isolating, silos into Christian community and unity.

Scripture References for this study: [Acts 10:9-16](#) and [Galatians 2:11-21](#)



LIVE

- Pride create Bias
- Pride creates Hypocrisy
- Pride creates Isolation

Application Question: How does your pride negatively impact interactions with people at work?



LEAD

Ask Yourself: Where do I see disconnects between what I believe and how I live it out at work, at home at church and in my community?