

Contents

Tap a title to jump to a page

i. How to... (for the leader)

Devotionals

1 - Unity

2 - Worry

3 - Light

4 - Cleansing

5 - Restoration

6 - Foolishness

7 - Treasure

8 - Courage



Students on the discussion booklets



Goel Faroun
(Kefas, Norrköping)

“Good content! Helps students to take the first step and start a Christian discussion with interesting topics based on various Bible passages.”

“It’s definitely a good basis for discussion around a Bible passage, and gives freedom and structure.”



Kristoffer Ohlsson
(Credo Umeå)

“The resource is perfectly designed for a student group context and led to several meaningful conversations.”




Vibeke Wyatt
(Salt&Ljus, Göteborg)

How to...

These devotionals have been designed by Credo Student as a resource for generating discussion and prayer about various aspects of student life as a Christian.

The aim is to get into a Bible passage which addresses the topic, thus letting God's word speak into the discussion and equip us to follow Jesus at university.



One person leads by posing the questions and keeping an eye on the time. It should be possible to read and discuss the passage in 25 minutes, but if you have longer you can engage in a more in-depth discussion.

After each passage-question is a time reference (in minutes) for how long you should spend on the question. This is helpful if you have 25 minutes. If you have more time you can of course spend longer on each question.

Format

First there is an introductory question to discuss.

Then read the verses given here. It is helpful if everyone has the passage in front of them for the questions which follow.

Next, two or three questions relating to the reading help bring out its meaning and relevance. The idea is to answer these questions with the help of the passage.

After having discussed the passage there are some application questions to open up conversation about how it can affect our lives as Christians and as a student group.

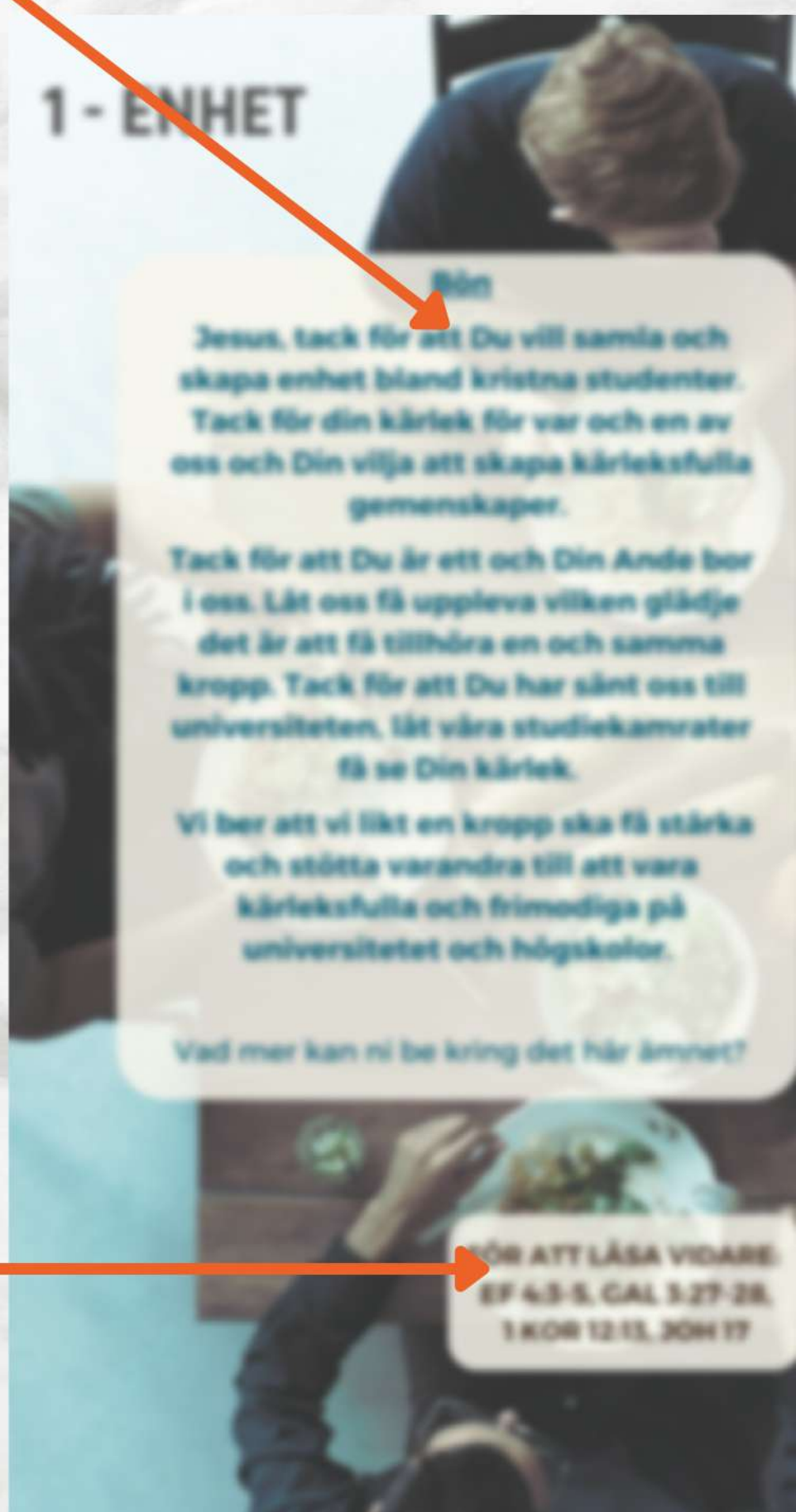


Finishing up

On the second page is a prayer which you can use as a response to God.

You can also pray in your own words for each other based on what you've discussed.

For those who want to read more on the topic you can refer them to related Bible passages given here.



1 - UNITY

AT UNIVERSITY

What thoughts do you have on Christian unity? (2 min)

READ JOHN 17:20-23

Read v22 again. What does Jesus say God's glory has to do with unity? What about what the trinity has to do with unity? (5 min)

Which other reasons for unity are in Jesus prayer? (4 min)

How should Jesus' prayer for unity affect how you see your Christian student group?

What do you think it means to be united at university? How can we live in unity?

What do you think can enable Christian community at university and what could hinder it?

1 - UNITY

Prayer

Jesus, thank you that you want to gather Christian students and create unity among them. Thank you for your love for each of us and for your desire to form loving community.

Thank you that you are one and that your Spirit lives in us. May we experience the joy of belonging to one body. Thank you for sending us to the university. Let our fellow students see your love.

We pray that we, as one body, would strengthen and support one another to be bold and loving at university.

Amen

What else could you pray about relating to this topic?

**FURTHER READING:
EPH 4:3-5, GAL 3:27-28
1 COR 12:12-26, JOH 17**

2 - WORRY

AND STUDENT LIFE

What things can cause worry or stress for your classmates? What do you worry about? (3 min)

READ MATTHEW 6:24-34

What is the key to not worrying according to Jesus in verse 32? (2 min)

What do birds and flowers have to do with worry (v26-30)? What did Jesus want us to learn from them? (5 min)

What does it look like to trust God when studies or other things worry you?

In which areas do you need to remember that God is your Father?

How can we as students prioritise "the kingdom of God and his righteousness"?

2 - WORRY

Prayer

God, you are almighty and hold all things in your hands, you who created the heavens above us and the ground beneath us. My past is in your hands, my present is in your hands, my future is in your hands.

You see all that worries and burdens us. Thank you that you provide exactly what your children need. Help us to trust your power and goodness. Help us to seek first your kingdom and righteousness, even when other things demand our attention.

We pray also for our classmates who don't know you. We pray that they would seek you and find comfort in calling you Father.

Amen

What else could you pray about relating to this topic?

**FURTHER READING:
PHIL 4:4-7, JOH 6:27
PS 23, ISA 40:26-31**

3 - LIGHT

AMONG DIM HYPOTHESES

What is a neutral stance regarding God/faith/religion? What stances do your university and your coursemates have? (3 min)

READ JOHN 3:16-21

Read v19-20 again. If Jesus is the light, what does it mean to not believe in him according to these verses? (3 min)

Jesus makes a claim about humanity in v18-20. How does this help us to understand why God judges people? (4 min)

How does God's love (v16) become good news when we understand this? (2 min)

How does Jesus' explanation shape how you see sin? Salvation? Gods love?

How could you, like Jesus, talk about sin and salvation at university?

3 - LIGHT

Prayer

God, you alone are perfectly good and perfectly loving. You are light and in you there is no darkness.

Thank you that you call us to the light.

Thank you that you gave your Son, that he gave his life for our sin, so that whoever believes in him does not perish but has eternal life. Please help us to live in the light.

God, we feel sorrow for classmates who have not yet received you. We pray that they would turn to you Jesus, and live in your righteousness and freedom.

Amen

What else could you pray about relating to this topic?

**FURTHER READING:
COL 1:21-23, JER 17:9-10
ROM 3:9-26, 2 PET 3:3-13**

4 - CLEANSING

FOR ALL

**How is it talking about sin?
(2 min)**

READ 1 JOHN 1:5-2:2

**Why is sin serious according to 1:5-7?
(4 min)**

**Which reasons are given that we should
confess sin (1:8-2:2)? So why is it
important to confess sin to God? (4 min)**

**How does God deal with our sin (1:9, 2:1-2)?
(2 min)**

**How can we take sin seriously as
individuals? As a student group?**

**How can we take God's grace seriously
as individuals? As a student group?**

4 - CLEANSING

Prayer

I confess before you, holy and righteous God, that I have sinned in thought, word and deed.

I have not loved you with my whole heart, nor loved my neighbour as myself.

By my sin I am guilty of greater evil than I can fully know and share in the world's rejection of you.

I therefore ask for your help to see and to turn from my sins.

**Forgive me for the sake of Jesus Christ.
Amen**

What else could you pray about relating to this topic?

**FURTHER READING:
1 TIM 1:15, ISA 55:6-7
PS 51, EPH 2:1-10**

5 - RESTORATION

FOR UNIVERSITIES

How much spiritual life do you see at your university? (2 min)

READ EZEKIEL 37:1-14

In which ways do things appear hopeless at the start of the vision (v1-2)? (2 min)

How does the restoration occur? How do word and Spirit relate (v4, 9-10)? (4 min)

What does the vision make you feel? How does it shape your view of God? (3 min)

What keeps us from trusting in God's power to restore?

How can the vision give us hope for the university?

5 - RESTORATION

Prayer

God, you who created all things by your word, all things are possible for you!

Yours is the power and the glory!

**Thank you for the hope you give us,
hope of life and a future.**

Help us to trust in your power and use us to speak your life-giving word into the university. We ask you to fill us and our classmates with Spirit and life.

May we know that you are the LORD and may others, who don't yet believe, see that it is you who can give them life.

Amen

What else could you pray about relating to this topic?

FURTHER READING:

2 COR 4:13-14, JOH 5:24-29

GEN 16, PS 113

6 - FOOLISHNESS

AMONG ACADEMICS

What are some advantages of knowledge and education? Are there also disadvantages? (3 min)

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-25

What do v19-21 say about this world's wisdom? What does it fail to do? (3 min)

Verse 21 says that God chose to save through apparently foolish preaching. In what ways does this humble the 'wise'? (3 min)

Why then is the message of the cross so valuable? (2 min)

Which reactions should we expect when we share the message of the cross?

How could it look to trust in the wisdom of the cross in conversations about faith?

6 - FOOLISHNESS

Prayer

Lord, all wisdom belongs to you. We praise you for your great wisdom and thank you that it has been revealed to us through Jesus' crucifixion. Thank you that your salvation is by grace and not by human intelligence.

Lord, would we value the message of the cross above all other knowledge. Would we stand by it even when the world around us sees it as foolishness.

Help us to humbly hold out the saving message of the cross for our university, and we pray that many would come and humble themselves before the cross.

Amen

What else could you pray about relating to this topic?

FURTHER READING: MATT 11:25-26, JER 9:23-24 1 COR 1:26-2:5, JOB 38-39

7 - TREASURE

MORE THAN KNOWLEDGE

What can make it hard to share one's faith? (2 min)

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-7

What things that can hinder the gospel are mentioned in the text? (3 min)

Which reasons does Paul give for not deviating from spreading the truth? (4 min)

Clay jars were very cheap and mundane. According to verse 7, what is God's logic behind using weak people to spread the gospel? (2 min)

Why is it important for us to know that the gospel is a treasure? To know that God uses "jars of clay"?

What does it mean that we preach not ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord? How could this look among students?

7 - TREASURE

Prayer

Thank you God for your mighty power and that you have chosen to put the power of the gospel in us who believe.

Thank you for the light which illuminates our hearts.

And thank you dear Father that you have put this treasure in us, fragile jars of clay, so that the power is yours. Thank you that we don't need to preach ourselves but get to point to your perfect Son. Strengthen us to do so boldly.

Yours is the power and the glory forever.

Amen

What else could you pray about relating to this topic?

**FURTHER READING:
2 COR 12:7-10, JER 1:6-10
EX 3-4, JUDG 6-7**

8 - COURAGE

AT UNIVERSITY

Which barriers are there to spreading the gospel on campus? (2 min)

READ ACTS 5:27-32

Which feelings do you think they would have felt being brought before the council (or Sanhedrin)? (2 min)

What did Peter do when he was forbidden to teach in Jesus' name? (2 min)

Why? What motivated him (v29-32)? (5 min)

Have you ever felt pressure to be silent about Jesus? How did you react or act? How do you wish you had acted?

How can we take inspiration from Peter while at university? What barriers and opportunities are there?

8 - COURAGE

Prayer

Thank you heavenly Father that you sent Jesus to turn us from and forgive us for our sins. Thank you that he is good news for the world and that we have the privilege of witnessing about him.

We pray that you would strengthen us to obey you rather than people. Give us courage to spread this message to those around us, especially when we face opposition.

Use us to reach the university.

Amen

What else could you pray about relating to this topic?

**FURTHER READING:
2 TIM 4:1-2, ROM 1:16-17
JER 26:1-15, LUK 12:4-12**