

# My Journey with the Word

*You can use this document in different ways: for one of your regular meetings as a local student group; as a session in a camp or conference; for personal reflection... Please feel free to adapt this material as is best for your context.*

Each one of us has their own journey with God and his Word. Each journey is unique and rich. Taking the time to remember can be very powerful – giving us strength for the next phase of our journey and wisdom to encourage others on their journey.

## REFLECTION TIME

*If you are doing this on your own, we encourage you to set aside 1-2 hours. If you are doing this in a group setting, please take at least 30 minutes. For a group meeting or training session, it can be helpful to have everyone do this beforehand in preparation.*

Look at your own personal story with the Bible. Remember. And then draw your personal journey with God's Word. This can be in the form of pictures, a map, a graph, a timeline or any other way in which you can best express your journey.

The following questions can help you reflect on your story with God's Word. Feel free to add or leave out aspects, depending on what is relevant for you.

### Relationship and Image

What was your relationship with the Bible growing up?

What image of God did you grow up with?

### Changing Relationship

How did your relationship with the Bible change over time?

How did you learn to read and understand God's Word?

How did love for God's Word grow in your life?

### Influences Along Your Journey

Which people most strongly influenced the way you approach/handle God's Word?

Which events/experiences had a significant influence on your story with the Bible?

### Wrestling with God's Word

Where along your journey did you face troubled times relating with the Bible?

What were some of your questions during this time?

### Comfort and Guidance from God's Word

Which Scripture passages have been significant in different stages of your life?

How do these reflect your own journey and what God was doing in your life?

What is God currently calling you to through his Word?

### Making Moves...

Is there something you want to change in your journey right now with the Word and with God?

What would that be?

You might find it helpful to give **a name to your journey**.

## SHARING OUR STORIES

*You can break into pairs and share the drawings of your journey. Or you can share some aspects with the whole group (or in sub-groups): each person can be asked to share three aspects of their journey or only to share one Bible passage which has been significant for their life.*

*If you are doing this on your own, find someone to tell about your journey.*

## SCRIPTURE ENGAGEMENT AS A JOURNEY

*The image of a journey for Scripture engagement is worth thinking about. As you reflected on your story and listened to others sharing, ask these questions: What do we learn from looking at Scripture engagement as a journey? How can this image encourage us? Take some time to talk about this together.*

Here are some first thoughts:

**Each person has their own, unique journey.** Comparing ourselves with one another will not help us to live our life. So let's give one another space to journey instead of expecting everyone to be in the same phase. This opens up safe places to name struggles and joys, questions and convictions with regard to Scripture engagement.

**Our current situation is not the whole picture.** It is just one location on the journey. As we look back and remember, our perspective changes. Present struggles are not all there is to our life. In remembering what we have experienced with God and his Word in the past, we are encouraged to keep going in our walk with Jesus.

**We do not journey alone.** All of our stories will include other people without whom we would not be where we are today. We need others for our journey with God's Word and we are called to walk with others. Who are these people in our lives and how can we journey well together?

**The journey is not yet finished – there is more to come.** It is worth thinking about the direction we want to be moving in. What open questions do you need to grapple with? In which area of Scripture engagement do you desire to grow? We cannot map out the future and plan our journey in detail – we do not see and control the big picture of what is to come. But we can develop a long-term vision and decide what our next step will be.

If there is time:

*\_Talk about how you can help others on their journey with God's Word. What do you learn from looking at your own journey which can become a help for others?*

*\_Look at the journey of the disciples on the road to Emmaus and reflect on different phases of their journey with Jesus and his Word. See Luke 24: 13-35.*

## RESPONDING TO GOD

*In a time of prayer, respond to God with whatever is on your heart after reflecting on your journey with him and his Word.*

God never stops working in our lives. Isn't that amazing? Each of our stories is a testimony to the work of the Living God. Yes, there are times in our lives where God seems hidden and silent. Yet, when we look at our journey so far, we see how he has taken the initiative to meet us and found ways to speak to our heart. It is God's love and faithfulness that underlies our journey and he will bring it to completion!

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