

Launch Your Comrades-in-Arms Partnership

The intent of this short e-book is to simply get you launched into a spiritual partnership (a comrades-in-arms partnership with another man). You can either follow the steps below in sequence, or skip those that you've already tackled and move on to the next step. I pray that you discover quickly the rich benefits from spiritual partnership for both you and the person you partner with spiritually. For more training, examples and ideas, I encourage you to read my book, *Comrades in Arms—The Power of Pursuing Christ in the Company of Other Men*.

Step One: If you don't have a spiritual partner, tell the Lord that you recognize your need for spiritual partnership and ask him to direct you to the individual with whom you should partner spiritually. The Lord wants us in transformational relationships like this, so this isn't a prayer to determine *whether to partner spiritually!* Because of this, look around you. Who makes the most sense for you to partner with? You might choose to upgrade a current relationship to spiritual partnership, or you may ask someone whom you don't yet know well. Remember, men partner spiritually with men, and women with women.

Step Two: When you've found another guy who wants to grow in Christ, ask him to partner with you spiritually. If your potential spiritual partner isn't familiar with spiritual partnerships, go through the book *Comrades in Arms* together as a great way to launch your spiritual partnership. Be very clear about why you're partnering together. Verbalize with each other why you are establishing this relationship. *The purpose of your spiritual partnership is to propel each other into deeper relationship with Christ.* Keep in mind that a spiritual partnership is mutual and reciprocal in nature. You want to "sharpen" each other (Proverbs 27:17) and "spur" each other in becoming more Christlike (Hebrews 10:24).

Step Three: Decide when, where, and how often you'll meet and agree on a general pattern of your meetings together. I recommend that you meet weekly. Set a time that works well for both of you and make it a priority to be there. If you're married, explain to your spouse why you're meeting with this guy. Don't over-plan your times together. Instead, come up with a basic pattern and be flexible to change it as you need to.

Step Four: Start meeting regularly. Spur each other on to Christlikeness. Enter into this relationship with a sense of expectation that God will do powerful things to root out sin, transform ungodly patterns, and make you both more like Jesus! Ensure that you weave the five characteristics of spiritual partnerships into your relationship:

- Men with men (and women with women) pursuing relationship with Christ
- Spend time together in real life
- Love and care for each other
- Challenge each other boldly from God's Word
- Pray with and for each other

As you pray for each other, experiment with and adhere to the characteristics of conversational prayer with each other. Those characteristics are:

- Pray short, phrase or sentence prayers.
- Stay on a theme until it seems right to move on. Piggyback on each other's prayers.
- Keep your prayers vertical (don't use prayer to *preach* at others).
- Embrace silence as an opportunity to listen to God, transition, or process what's been prayed. Listen to the Holy Spirit and each other.
- Believe the best of each other.

A Dozen Powerful "Tough" Questions to Promote Spiritual Growth

Remember, people are most likely to change in the context of *transformational relationships*. So, move to transformational relationship the first time you meet by giving each other permission to ask "tough" questions like: (Okay, I've given you more than a dozen!)

- "What is God doing in your life right now?"
- "What is God showing you from his Word?"
- "What one thing in your life is preventing you from enjoying God fully?"
- "In what ways are you currently leading your wife and family closer to the Lord?"
- "How well are you loving your wife right now?"
- "What are your greatest joys/challenges in walking with Jesus right now?"
- "What's one thing you'd like to see Christ change in you?"
- "In what ways is God using you to model Christlikeness to others?"
- "How well are you representing Christ in your work?"
- "What unresolved conflicts are present in your life? How do you want to resolve them?"
- "To whom do you need to extend forgiveness right now?"
- "What distractions are preventing you from fully following Jesus?"
- "To what extent are you leading your children into deeper relationship with Christ?"
- "Besides Christ, who or what else has a hold on your life?"

Remember, the best questions are open-ended. There are numerous other questions you could ask. Always let the Holy Spirit lead you with your spiritual partner and in the context of his life.

I'm excited for you as you step into or continue a comrades-in-arms partnership! Expect God to work powerfully in your spiritual partnership. Be sure to let others know what God is doing in your lives as a result of your spiritual partnership.

If this e-book and the tools have helped you in your walk with Christ, please pass them along to others. If you'd like to tell me about what Christ is doing in your spiritual partnership, please contact me at www.fischerlifecoaching.com. "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:24-25

A Practical Guide on How to Conduct a Bible Read-Thru

What is a Read-thru?

- A read-thru is a strategy for simply reading through a particular portion of the Bible within a given time period in partnership with other followers of Christ.
- The purpose of a read-thru is to meet with God and hear from Him in His Word.
- A read-thru is not an in-depth Bible study. Let God's Word wash over you.

Logistics

- Agree as spiritual partners or as a group on a particular read-thru and appropriate pace.
- Make sure that everyone in your group knows how to navigate the Bible.
- Ensure that everyone has a version of the Bible that they can understand.
- Agree on a day and time to meet.

What do we do when we meet?

- Come prepared to share what God is showing you from His Word.
- Tell how you are putting God's Word into practice in your lives.
- Pray for each other regarding struggles and victories you are experiencing right now.
- Encourage each other to keep pace with the reading plan, following the guidelines below.

Always go to the Word expecting to meet with God!

Ask and discuss:

- What is God revealing to me here about Himself and how can I deepen my relationship with Him?
- How does this passage apply to my relationships with others?
- What does God want to change in me?
- What questions do I have?

Read-thru plans

- Read through the New Testament (see attached plan).
- Read through the Old Testament chronologically (see attached plan).
- Read the Psalms and Proverbs through in a month (read five Psalms and one Proverb per day).
- Read through the Bible in a year. (Read three chapters a day, Monday thru Saturday, and five chapters on Sunday to read through the Bible in a year.)

Two Bible Read-Thru Plans

New Testament Read-Thru

We can take many different approaches to reading through the New Testament. This particular plan takes us through the NT in 13 weeks reading three chapters each day. We've purposefully scattered the reading of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) throughout the plan to mingle the Gospels with the letters of the NT.

Week

- 1 John 1-21
- 2 Acts 1-21
- 3 Acts 22-28; Romans 1-14
- 4 Romans 15-16; Matthew 1-19
- 5 Matthew 20-28; 1 Corinthians 1-12
- 6 1 Corinthians 13-16; 2 Corinthians 1-13; Luke 1-4
- 7 Luke 5-24; Galatians 1
- 8 Galatians 2-6; Ephesians 1-6; Philippians 1-4; Col 1-4; 1 Thessalonians 1-2
- 9 1 Thessalonians 3-5; 2 Thessalonians 1-3; Mark 1-15
- 10 Mark 16; Philemon; 1 Timothy 1-6; 2 Timothy 1-4; Titus 1-3; Hebrews 1-6
- 11 Hebrews 7-13; James 1-5; 1 Peter 1-5; 2 Peter 1-3; 1 John 1
- 12 1 John 2-5; 2 John; 3 John; Jude; Revelation 1-14
- 13 Revelation 15-22

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Ask Him:

- What are You revealing to me here about Yourself?
- How does this passage apply to my relationship with You and others today?
- Lord, what do You want to change in me?

Discuss with your spiritual partner or small group:

- How did God speak to you from His Word this week?
- What did He reveal about Himself—His character and dealings with mankind?
- As a result of reading this passage, what has God revealed that He wants to change in you?
- Pray with each other based on your responses to the above questions.

Old Testament Chronological Read-Thru

The Old Testament Chronological Read-Thru is an excellent way to grasp the order of events, their context, and how God revealed Himself to mankind in a progressive manner (see Hebrews 1:1-3). If you've ever wondered how the characters and events of the OT all fit together, then you will find this read-thru extremely helpful! If five chapters per day is too aggressive for you, simply read fewer chapters per day and stick to the plan order.

Week (Reading five chapters per day)

1	Genesis 1-35
2	Genesis 36-50; Job 1-20
3	Job 21-42; Exodus 1-13
4	Exodus 14-40; Leviticus 1-8
5	Leviticus 9-27; Numbers 1-16
6	Numbers 17-36; Deuteronomy 1-15
7	Deuteronomy 16-34; Joshua 1-16
8	Joshua 17-24; Judges 1-21; Ruth 1-4; 1 Samuel 1-2
9	1 Samuel 3-31; 1 Chronicles 1-6
10	2 Samuel 1-24; 1 Chronicles 6-16
11	1 Chronicles 17-29; Psalms 1-22
12	Psalms 22-56
13	Psalms 56-90
14	Psalms 90-124
15	Psalms 125-150; 1 Kings 1-9
16	1 Kings 10-11; 2 Chronicles 1-9; Proverbs 1-24
17	Proverbs 25-31; Ecclesiastes 1-12; Song of Solomon 1-8; 1 Kings 12-19
18	1 Kings 20-25; 2 Chronicles 10-22:9; 2 Kings 1-12; 2 Chronicles 22:10-13; 2 Kings 13-16
19	2 Kings 17; 2 Chronicles 23-28; Joel 1-3; Jonah 1-4; Obadiah 1; Amos 1-9; Hosea 1-11
20	Hosea 12-14; 2 Kings 18-25; 2 Chronicles 29-36; Isaiah 1-16
21	Isaiah 17-51
22	Isaiah 52-66; Micah 1-7; Zephaniah 1-3; Nahum 1-3; Jeremiah 1-7
23	Jeremiah 8-42
24	Jeremiah 43-52; Lamentations 1-5; Habakkuk 1-3; Daniel 1-12; Ezekiel 1-5
25	Ezekiel 6-40
26	Ezekiel 41-48; Haggai 1-2; Zechariah 1-14; Ezra 1-10; Nehemiah 1
27	Nehemiah 2-13; Esther 1-10; Malachi 1-4

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