

# QTC559. How to make the Bible your 'hobby' - Part 5. 20 February 2025

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How to make the Bible your 'hobby'. Part 5 - Community and Accountability | Malcolm Cox | Quiet Time Coaching Episode 559\*\*

## Introduction

In this series, we are exploring how approaching our Bible study as a hobby can make all the difference. Today we will examine how community and accountability can be helpful in establishing hobby-like habits in our Bible study.

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### 1. Community

This is often forgotten in Western society, but most Bible study in history has been done in community. Over the last 2000 years very few Christians had their own Bible, even if they could read at all. Therefore, Bible study was done mostly when the church gathered, and also in the home. Passages were likely memorised, or certain parts of the Bible copied and discussed exhaustively around the dinner table, while working in the fields, or as companions walked to the market or from town to town.

The old saying two heads are better than one is highly applicable to Bible study. It also can make Bible study exciting because we hear other people's insights which are often so different to our own. Those differences are stimulating and enriching.

How do we do this? It could be something as simple as talking to friends at church and setting up a WhatsApp group to study a Biblical topic or book of the Bible. You can do this online. For example [Bible Study Fellowship](#) (BSF) offers an online platform where people can join virtual groups to study the Bible together, share insights, and grow in faith.

Another example is The Bible App ([YouVersion](#)), which has a vast collection of Bible reading plans, devotionals, and the ability to join community groups where you can discuss your readings, pray for each other, and encourage one another.

You can also find dedicated Bible study groups on platforms like Facebook or Reddit, such as "Bible Study & Discussion" or "Christian Bible Study," where people from various denominations and backgrounds engage in discussion, share resources, and ask questions.

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## 2. Accountability

How does the idea of being accountable for your Bible study strike you? It can be a struggle to welcome accountability when imposed, but how about when we voluntarily submit ourselves? This kind of accountability is a second aspect of community Bible study. We're talking about partnering with another Christian or a group of like-minded people to help each other develop healthy Bible study habits.

If you decide to take the community approach to your Bible study, discuss what accountability you will employ with the others in that group or with that mentor. It could be posting your learnings a certain number of times a week, checking in to say that you've read your Bible that day, or committing to reading a certain amount of scripture daily. It's whatever is meaningful, comes from you, and helps you to develop healthy habits that matter.

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### Question

Have you tried the community approach to Bible study? If not, will you give it a go?

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### Suggestions

Try it for a week. Let me know how it goes. If you're not comfortable or familiar with these ideas, at least experiment and see what the Spirit reveals.

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### Conclusion

Next week, I will offer some further inspiration to help you make the Bible your hobby.

Your brother, Malcolm

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Please add your comments on this week's topic. We learn best when we learn in community.

Do you have a question about teaching the Bible? Is it theological, technical, or practical? Please send me your questions or suggestions. Here's the email: [malcolm@malcolmcox.org](mailto:malcolm@malcolmcox.org).

If you'd like a copy of my free eBook on spiritual disciplines, "How God Grows His People", sign up at my website: <http://www.malcolmcox.org>.

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By the way, this series was inspired by John Miles' video, which can be viewed at [https://youtu.be/Jcll0RcUXo0?si=\\_d5QhLwOqk2k9cwG](https://youtu.be/Jcll0RcUXo0?si=_d5QhLwOqk2k9cwG).

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