

Bible in 90 Days • Best Practices for Prisons

B90 groups have made a huge difference in prisoners and prisons alike. These notes will help men and women behind physical bars find spiritual freedom.

The Bible in 90 Days has been exceptionally well received by Prison Fellowship in several states. We have seen very positive results from using Bible in 90 Days within the faith-based dorms in the prisons of Texas. In addition to the individual spiritual growth that comes from reading the Bible from cover-to-cover in only 90 days, we have seen that the use of the materials has produced a tremendous sense of community among the participants. Many inmates have invited family and friends on the outside to read along with them, thus bringing them closer to those on the outside. Below are some of the best practices we have observed when using the materials in prison ministry:

- Always remember that each prison is unique; therefore, work closely with both the chaplain and warden when implementing the materials.
- Small groups are the key to the success of B90 in prisons. Ask the chaplain to select qualified inmates to serve as group facilitators. Let facilitators choose co-facilitators from within their group. Emphasize and train group leaders to facilitate discussion, not teach. Allocate as much time as possible to the small groups (at least 45 minutes). The leaders will be very comfortable using the questions in the Participants Guide, so there's no need to add to them.
- Always be yourself, even if you feel inadequate. Inmates are usually very flexible and appreciative of the opportunity to read God's Word.
- Don't miss a week. Keep on schedule. Work with the chaplain if any conflicts develop within a group.
- As leader you set the tone. Be continually positive and encouraging. Keep their focus on the big picture and the unity of the Bible, and postpone (for now) questions that arise from particular Scriptures. Those can be addressed after B90 is completed. The best preparation for you as leader is to participate yourself by reading along with the inmates. Share what you are learning as you read the Bible with them. Preview the DVD (or streaming) video for each session, choosing the track that best fits your situation. Inmates have responded well to Jack Modesett's presentations.
- Work with the chaplain to plan a celebration event at the end of the class. It might include a meal, inmate's testimonies, and a personalized copy of a B90 Certificate of Completion.