



## 3.2.1 (Practical Bible Engagement)

Cast Member Church has designed and developed a simple yet effective approach for group Kingdom Expressions to explore and engage with the scriptures together regardless of Biblical experience (or lack thereof). This approach makes it easy for everyone to gain knowledge and take meaningful action each time they interact with God's Word. This process of study and action becomes the left and right footsteps on our journey toward wisdom, understanding of God, and our place in His Kingdom.

**3-2-1** consists of asking three questions, looking at two verses, and taking one action.

Preparation is wonderfully simple and incredibly flexible, designed to fit seamlessly into your life.

You can build 3-2-1 around either the three questions, the two verses, or the action. It's up to you to decide where to start your planning. We have found that regardless of where you choose to start as a beginning for your theme of the discussion, the following implementation seems to be the most effective.



**3 QUESTIONS:** For a vibrant discussion, keep the three questions open-ended and always begin with words like *who*, *what*, *why*, *where*, *when*, or *how*. Imagine you have chosen the topic of gossip. A few examples would be:

- *When was the last time you caught yourself gossiping about someone or something?*
- *How do you typically react when you find out someone is gossiping about you?*
- *What is the most effective way to avoid gossip?*
- *Where do you usually encounter a gossip-filled atmosphere?*
- *Why do you believe that most people tend to engage in gossip?*
- *Who in your life exemplifies integrity?*

The goal is to gain as much insight as possible from each other's experiences, perspectives, and insights.

**2 VERSES:** Be sure that the verses you choose share a common theme and address the same topic. This allows everyone to see the cohesiveness of Scripture and its consistent application in our lives. If the topic is gossip, here are a few examples:

- *Watch the way you talk. Let nothing foul or dirty come out of your mouth. Say only what helps, each word a gift. - Ephesians 4:29 MSG*
- *When you run out of wood, the fire goes out; when the gossip ends, the quarrel dies down. - Proverbs 26:20 NIV*

Sometimes, you may encounter numerous verses, making it difficult to choose. It's important to remember that the aim is to be motivated to take action rather than simply accumulating knowledge. Look for verses that both encourage and challenge you. You may even find some that provoke questions for a deeper group discussion. Don't hesitate to let the verses shape your questions.

**1 ACTION:** As you facilitate a group discussion, you ultimately want to lead them to a call to action. You could predetermine an action in your preparation OR you can ask each person how they will specifically apply what they have learned in the time together. Be sure that each person is able to own their call to action and share it with the group.

Continuing with our theme on gossip, here are some examples that could be offered:

- *The next time a conversation turns toward gossip, I will say something nice about the person who is being gossiped about.*
- *I need to apologize to someone whom I shared confidential information with and ask for their forgiveness.*
- *When someone comes to me with a piece of gossip, I will quietly excuse myself and not participate in the conversation.*

Keep your 3-2-1 to one hour. If you are including a meal together, be sure not to let the entire time become too long or drug out. You want to leave on a high, with everyone feeling excited to return.

The more times you lead a 3-2-1, the more comfortable you will feel in your preparation and facilitation.

Embrace both breakthroughs and setbacks. Encourage taking risks and stretching everyone's faith. Wisdom comes from practice, failure, and resilience. Your 3-2-1 should be the safest space for members of your Kingdom Expression to navigate their journey.

Remember, Jesus is leading you. He is the most active participant in your 3-2-1. He may lead members of your group in unexpected directions, and that's okay. These moments often turn out to be the best and most memorable. Trust Jesus, regardless of the outcome of your time together. Everyone is growing, and each person's growth is unique.

There's no greater joy than journeying and growing in Jesus together. Whether those in your group are curious about Jesus or have been committed to Him for a while, your 3-2-1 can become a powerful way for them to experience Him...up close and personal.