

## An Invitation

You may be someone who is:

settled in your views, or  
asking questions;  
an atheist, or  
a firm believer.

Perhaps you would like to air your views and discuss further the claims of Jesus in a relaxed, low-pressure environment.

If so, I would be glad to meet with you in such a setting. Just suggest a time and place convenient to you - within reason!

As a basis, we would use the 'meristem' format described overleaf. During this, we would simply read through and share views on a part of Jesus' life.

If you'd like to 'try reading' the Bible, or have any questions, please just ask.

*My contact details are:*

*Name*

*Email*

*My Local Church*

## A Promise

*“You will seek me  
and find me when  
you seek me with  
all of your heart.  
I will be found by  
you,”  
declares the Lord.*

*(Jeremiah chapter 29 verse 13)*

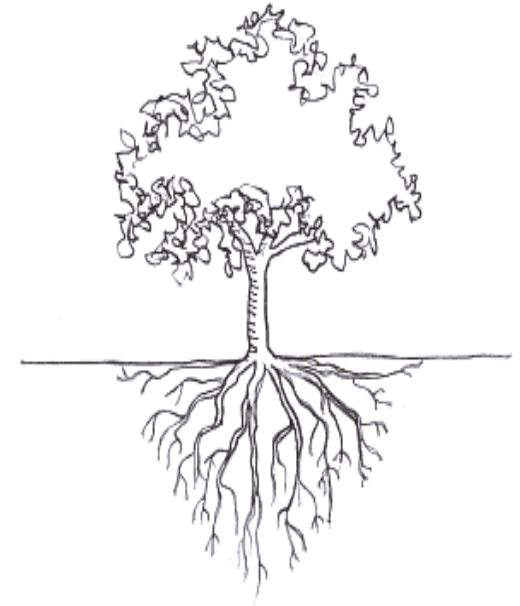


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These leaflets are available to print from  
<http://www.torranceparishchurch.org.uk/the-word-of-god/community/meristems/>

Also by Nigel Barge:  
*Meristems - The Rationale* 40pp, £1.50 plus postage.  
*Hearing the Word*, A series of Bible Study aids  
Available from Torrance Parish Church Office  
1 School Road, Torrance, Glasgow G64 4BZ  
Tel: 01360 620970 Email: [office@tpc.org.uk](mailto:office@tpc.org.uk)  
Web: [www.torranceparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.torranceparishchurch.org.uk)  
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## Meristems



*Tryreading?*

## What's a Meristem\*?

### Who?

A gathering of 2 to 4 people willing to read the Bible - of any age, background or stage of belief, generally single-sex.

### Why?

- to grow in our understanding of God
- to build friendships

### When?

Anytime it can be fitted in, *without eating in to prime time* (so not evenings, family time, etc.). It might meet early morning, lunchtime, on the way home from work, when shifts coincide etc.

### Where?

Anywhere convenient - home, office, church, pub, the train etc.

### How long?

Usually once a week for 7 weeks, but flexible. You may of course stop at any point. But if you are interested and wish to continue, you will be welcome.

### What if ...

... more than five people want to come?  
Simple: the group splits into two\*.

\* Biologists give the name 'Meristem' to areas in plants which are *growing*: cells are added as they *divide*. (From Greek *meristos*, 'divisible')

## The Format

A *meristem* lasts about  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour, though the discussion time can be extended if all agree.

It may include the following parts:

- 1) **Tea / bite to eat** (10 minutes)
- 2) **A Reading** (2 mins)  
*from a Gospel / account of Jesus' life.*
- 3) **Any questions?** (2 mins)  
*a full list, whether or not an answer has already been thought of.*
- 4) **Discussion** (20 mins)  
*Answering the questions raised, and a free exchange of views!*
- 5) **Conclusion** (5 mins)  
*A key verse and the main point  
What does it show us about God?  
What should we do?*
- 6) **Sharing** (5 mins)  
*Joys and trials - self, work and family,  
in confidence*
- 7) **Prayer** (1 min)

*It always ends at the pre-arranged time.*

## The Bible in a Meristem

Christians believe that in and through the Bible, God speaks and reveals Himself to human beings. We think therefore that *the Bible* is 'the teacher' and so we *all* come to learn from it.

At the heart of the Bible, Jesus says:

*God so loved the world  
that he gave his only Son,  
that whoever believes in Him  
should not perish  
but have everlasting life.  
(John chapter 3 verse 16)*

The aim of a '*meristem*' is to consider the truth of this statement. To do this we will look at and discuss our views on one of the four 'Gospels' in the Bible, which give accounts of Jesus life.

**All** opinions will be considered

**All** views will be respected.

**All** questions will be acknowledged - even if they remain unanswered!