

EPISODE -1 (SESSION 1)

What is BEMA?

WELCOME, PODRISHIONERS, TO THE BEMA PODCAST COMPANION

Whether you are jumping in as a long-time listener or are starting from the beginning for the first time, we are so glad that you're joining us on our journey through the Text.

The intention behind this “reboot” of BEMA’s core body of work is to update teaching material we used beginning in 2016, to share what we’ve learned since, and provide more opportunities for anyone and everyone to join us on the journey.

These episode companions are designed to provide you with resources to dive deeper into the Text, reflect, pray, and challenge us all to love God, love others, and become people of the Text.

Consider this a quick tour of what you could experience in upcoming Episode Companions.

Grace and peace,

The BEMA Team



“BEMA”

(or bimah) is a Hebrew word that refers to the elevated platform in the center of first-century synagogues where the people of God read the Text.

At that time, the community of God’s people did not gather in buildings that faced a stage with an audience, but rather they allowed their gathering to reflect what they hoped to be true of their lives—it was centered around the Word of God.

THE FOUR PILLARS

OF BEMA DISCIPLESHIP

BEMA Discipleship is built on four pillars; a **Four-Pillared Perspective** to help us remember **to elevate the words of God** (not ours) and help us identify the principles that we see recurring in the story of God's people.

Most Companions will include an application echoing these four ideas:



TEXT

What piece of the Text could you meditate over and memorize this week?



COMMUNITY

Who do you have intentional relationships with that help us practice unity?



DISCIPLESHIP

Is there anybody that you are taking with you into these spaces with God? Who could you invite into this space with you?



WRESTLING

What questions do you have after this lesson? What challenges you? Confuses you? Growth is in the struggle!



Are you a music listener?

Listen along to our BEMA Music Playlists on Spotify.

Song suggestions? Send them to bemabesorah@gmail.com.



BEMA SESSION 1



MEDITATION & PRAYER

WHAT IS BEMA?

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BEMA Discipleship began as a ministry designed for college students—to create a safe space for them to ask questions, wrestle with the Text, and find possible answers. However, as Marty shares his own story in this week's episode, we know it's not just young adults that need and desire this intentional and sacred space.

BEMA was created to open doors to conversations that transcend the denominational barriers that have oftentimes closed us off from the perspectives of others, and the perspectives that some of us may need to hear most are those of our young people. Our goal in starting with university students is to raise up a new generation that has the awareness and tools for Kingdom living. By inviting all our listeners into this conversation, we can raise up mentors to walk alongside generations to come. This is also why we encourage you to find or create a discussion group where you can dig into the Text and the BEMA material in community.

PRAYER

God,

We thank you for new beginnings.

For the opportunity to learn, to grow, to wrestle.

And to begin again.

Help us create space for you in our groups and our lives.

To find safe communities and voices

that speak wisdom and life into us.

To challenge us, and to remind us

of who you are

as we begin this journey through the Text.

Amen

REFLECTION, APPLICATION & IMPACT

There are three emphases that we are always thinking about in terms of application at BEMA. These may be stated explicitly at times, but often we will want you to do the work of finding ways to connect the dots to the things we are learning. Much of this is what makes the work of BEMA distinct as a ministry of Impact Campus Ministries.

CREATING A SPACE SPIRITUAL FORMATION

*True success is developing intimacy with God. Later in Session 1, you will encounter the idea of “Creating Space for God” in our lives. We believe that **if we do our part of creating that space, God will fill it** as He desires. We want BEMA to foster practices that enable the Holy Spirit to do a work in and through us all. Without that, our efforts are futile.*

CONSIDERING CAMPUS YOUNG PEOPLE FOCUS

***We believe that young adults are shaping the future of this world.** Jesus modeled a ministry of discipling young adults, and that approach has and will work. If you are a college student who is listening, we want this material to be directly helpful to your pursuits. If you are not a college student, we want to challenge you to come alongside one and work together.*

SACRED STATION THEOLOGY OF WORK

*This isn’t just for our time at church or Bible study; this is about what we do at work every day. How we do our job and how it may take advantage of or bring life to others is something that God says is central to our presence in the world. Justice is very much something God cares about. Does our physical work (our 9–5 job) bring shalom or chaos? Does it exploit creation? The way we manage our employees, interact with customers or coworkers, care for our children, or create products can provide relief to others. **The work we do every day is sacred and matters!***