

Discipleship Groups

Week 18

As your people gather, welcome them, and help them to greet one another.

When it's time to begin, welcome them as a group. Since you are the one who knows what the previous weeks' conversations have been, you are in the best position to judge what follow-up may be appropriate at the beginning of each week's session. You are the one in a position to make sure that there is a personal connection from week to week.

You may include the question that the early Methodists asked one another in their small groups: *How is it with your soul?* It is a personal sharing question. Assure your members that they are free to answer it in the way that they interpret it individually. The only wrong answer is an untrue one.

After the initial conversation and the "soul question," lead a brief follow-up discussion of this past week's prayer exercise. Our assignment was to practice supplication in our praying. As you reflect on the past week, consider the following questions together:

- What was your experience of setting aside 15 minutes for supplication?
- Was there an exercise this week that was especially difficult for you? Why?
- What exercise was especially helpful? Why?
- What did you learn? How did you grow?
- What do you understand to be the reasons for praying not only alone but together with other believers?

Next, ask your group members if they brought a list of things about which they want the group to pray together -- patterned after Jesus' encouragement where "two of you agree..." Have them share their lists with each other, and encourage members to jot down reminders for themselves of one another's prayer requests.

Now transition the group to watch this week's video together. The video can be downloaded or it can be played from the web site.

Following the video, invite the group to join in a time of prayer together. In case there is discomfort or awkwardness, encourage a simple starting place -- for example, that each person will pray, "Lord, I thank You for _____." Encourage them also to pray both quietly and aloud for one another's shared lists. Let the group know that you will open and close the group prayer time.

Before everyone is dismissed, remind the group members about your next meeting time and place, as well as encouraging them to pray for one another each day between now and then.

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