

Discipleship Groups

Week 19

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

This week's group session is intended to be a kind of prayer meeting. Building on the sharing of all the previous weeks, plus the group prayer time from last week, we want to give your group an extended opportunity to pray with and for one another today. And you may use this week's teaching video as a launch for that prayer time.

Our guiding images come from the stories of Moses, Aaron, and Hur in the Old Testament (Exodus 17:8-13) and the healing of the paralytic in the New Testament (Luke 5:17-26). We want the group members to see themselves as Aaron and Hur for one another. We want them to embrace the image of being the paralytic's four friends, carrying one another to Jesus.

My recommendation is that you place a chair in the center of a circle. Have one group member at a time sit in the center of the group, while the group members gather around and lay hands on that individual. Then make the next several minutes a time of praying together for that individual. You will want to give the group some direction by asking one person to open the praying for that individual, invite others to pray as they will, and then you will close the prayer time for that individual. Then move on to the next person in the group, until you have all prayed together for everyone in the group.

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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