

Discipleship Groups

Week 20

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.

In the wake of last week's group prayer time, there is a new element to keep in mind for every subsequent week -- we want to hold open a weekly opportunity to pray for one another. The idea would not be the pray individually for every single member of the group every single week. Rather, as the leader of the group, you would use your judgment of where folks are at and what they are sharing to say, as it seems appropriate, "May we pray for you?" And if the individual is amenable, then you may choose to have the group gather around that individual for a time of concentrated group prayer for that person.

After the initial conversation, the "soul question," and the prayer time, 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, walk through the exercise suggested in the video.

- 1) Combine your knowledge of Scripture to generate a list of 20 different stories about Jesus recorded in the Gospels.
- 2) For each story, identify one or two words as a group that describe Jesus -- i.e., what do we learn about Him in this story? What do we know He is like based on this episode?
- 3) Once you have walked through the first two steps of the exercise, read aloud the resulting list -- all the words that describe what Jesus is like. (As the leader, you will need to keep a copy of that list for future weeks.)
- 4) Finally, invite the group to share with each other their reactions to that list. What do they learn about Jesus? What do they feel about the calling to live like Jesus?

Close the group in prayer. Then, before everyone is dismissed, remind the members about your next meeting time and place, as well as encouraging them to pray for one another each day.

• • •