

Discipleship Groups

Week 21

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.

Next, we want to hold open a weekly opportunity to pray for one another. The idea is not to 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 ask, 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. This will be primarily a time of personal sharing. Each individual is invited to share three stories from their own experience with Jesus. And then, as a takeaway from those experiences, those parts of their testimony, we're looking for the answers to these questions: What does that tell us about Jesus? What do we know about Him based on each experience? What is He like?

As the group leader, you will need to jot down the words and descriptions that emerge from this time of sharing and conversation. (Also, you will want to keep that list of words and descriptions, along with the one generated last week.)

Once the time of sharing is complete, read aloud the resulting list -- all that you have written down as descriptions of what Jesus is like. Then ask the group members to share their reactions to what you have read. 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.

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