

Discipleship Groups

Week 23

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 maintain 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?" If the individual is amenable, you may choose to have the group gather around that individual for a time of concentrated group prayer for that person.

Next, as a follow-up to the recent weeks of conversations, ask the group members to share a bit about their experience of making a conscious effort to live like Jesus during the past week. What has gone well? What has been difficult? What have they learned?

After the initial conversation, the "soul question," the prayer time, and the discussion, 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, have a brief discussion together about the Sheldon novel and its central question. First, ask folks if they have read the book. If so, how did they benefit from it? Then, whether they have read the book or not, ask the group members to what extent they have allowed themselves to be guided by the question, "What would Jesus do?" What has been their experience of that question?

Finally, ask the group if they are willing to undertake this sort of WWJD covenant together. Are they willing to pledge to one another that, during the coming week, they will, in every area of life each day, ask the question, and then live according to the answer? Let them talk with each other about what it might mean to live that way.

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.

• • •