

Discipleship Groups

Week 25

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, we want also to give the group a weekly opportunity to discuss together their experiences of "What Would Jesus Do?" during the past week. When did they ask the question? When did they know the answer? When did they not know the answer? What was the experience -- difficulty, cost, blessing -- of doing what Jesus would do?

After (1) the initial conversations, (2) the "soul question," (3) the prayer time, and (4) WWJD debriefing, transition the group to watch this week's video together. It can be downloaded or it can be played from the web site.

Following the video, ask the group members to get out paper and pen. You will read to them, one at a time, each of the nine fruit of the Spirit. Their assignment is to jot down the first person they have known that comes to mind when they hear that fruit, as well as some character from Scripture that seems to embody that fruit for them. (*Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Goodness, Kindness, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Self-Control.*)

After everyone has had a chance to jot down two names for each fruit, go around the circle and share your answers and insights with one another. Our goal is to clarify in our own minds what each fruit looks like as we endeavor ourselves to be more like Jesus in each of these ways.

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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