

Discipleship Groups

Week 26

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.

Finally, we want to maintain a weekly opportunity to discuss together their experiences of "What Would Jesus Do?". When did they ask the question? When did they know the answer? When did they not? What was their 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, watch this week's video together. It can be downloaded or played from the website.

Following the video, distribute to the group members copies of the second page of his PDF. There they will see Paul's description of love, as written in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. In front of each of Paul's phrases describing love, we have inserted a blank. The goal is fill in that blank with names.

First, invite each person to write down the names of people they know who embody those statements, those aspects of love. Second, have the group share some of their answers. Third, go around the circle and read those statements, this time inserting "Jesus" in each blank. And, finally, go around the circle and read those statements, with each individual inserting his or her own name into the statement that he or she reads (e.g., Bill is patient, Andy is kind, Sharon does not envy...)

Talk together about the experience of hearing Jesus' name inserted into the description of love. Talk together about the experience of hearing one's own name inserted into the description of love. Talk together about the reality that a description of love should be a description of us.

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.

An Exercise from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

_____ is patient

_____ is kind

_____ does not envy

_____ does not brag

_____ is not arrogant

_____ is not rude

_____ does not insist on his/her own way

_____ is not easily angered

_____ does not keep a record of wrongs

_____ does not rejoice in unrighteousness

_____ rejoices with the truth

_____ bears all things

_____ believes all things

_____ hopes all things

_____ endures all things

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