

Discipleship Groups

Week 27

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. As the leader of the group, 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, discuss these matters together:

- Do we understand the difference between the two different kinds of "tough love"?
- When in Scripture do you see evidence of God's love being tough on Him?
- When in your life and relationship with God has His love been tough on Him?
- When in your life has your love for someone else been tough on you?
- In your effort to be a disciple -- that is, to be like Jesus; and, specifically, to love like Jesus -- where do you expect you will need tough (on you) love this week?

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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