

Discipleship Groups

Week 28

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 a weekly opportunity to pray for one another. Use your judgment of where folks are at to ask, as it seems appropriate, "May we pray for you?" If the individual is amenable, you may have the group gather around 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, enjoy some general conversation together about the material covered in the video. These questions may help to facilitate that discussion:

- Do we understand the point that these nouns (love, joy, peace, patience, etc.) leave us needing verbs - i.e., a sense of what we should do?
- What do you think of the proposed distinction between happiness and joy?
- What has been your own experience of that distinction?
- Do you agree that we cannot always be happy in this life, but that we can always be joyful?
- When have you been unhappy yet rejoiced?
- What is your reaction to the idea of rejoicing as an assignment -- i.e., rejoicing as the thing we do deliberately in order to be a people characterized by joy?

Agree together that each of you will, at some point each day this week, set aside a time to "rejoice in the Lord," and then be prepared to share with one another your experiences next 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.