

Discipleship Groups

Week 29

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.

Next, spend a few minutes debriefing with one another about your experiences of setting aside time each day to "rejoice in the Lord" deliberately.

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, (4) the "rejoice" debriefing, and (5) the WWJD debriefing, watch this week's video together. It can be downloaded or played from the website.

Following the video, the goal of the discussion is to identify the "season" for each of the fruit of the Spirit. For this to be as meaningful as possible, we want to avoid hypothetical situations. Instead, encourage group members to identify real-life situations in their own experience when they recognize that a given fruit was (or will be) needed. If they are examples from the past, they can be either occasions when they did produce or when they failed to produce that fruit in its season. (Not every person needs to share about every fruit.)

Here are the fruit of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Goodness, Kindness, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Self-Control.

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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