

## Discipleship Groups

### Week 31

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) the WWJD debriefing, watch this week's video together. It can be downloaded or played from the website.

Following the video, read the verse to the group, and then discuss the questions together:

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

*(Philippians 4:6-7 NIV)*

- What are some things you tend to be anxious about?
- Do you believe that God does not want you to be anxious about those things? (It may help to drive the point home if individuals make that statement out loud -- e.g., "God does not want me to be anxious about sickness" or "God does not want me to be anxious about money.")
- How faithfully do you "present your requests to God"?
- How much is thanksgiving a part of your "prayer and petition"?

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.