

Discipleship Groups

Week 33

As your people gather, welcome them, and help them to greet one another.

When it's time to begin, welcome them as a group. 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, discuss together your experiences of WWJD? When did we ask the question? When did we know the answer or not? What difficulty, cost, or blessing came from doing what He 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.

(Note: This week's video is a continuation of last week's, focusing on being patient with people.)

Following the video, engage the group in discussing these matters together:

- Share with one another your experience of the most patient people you have known.
- Reflect together on the distinction between patience as characteristic and patience as a commodity -- i.e., something that you are as opposed to something that you have (and have a limited supply of, at that).
- Reflect together on the image of a person swimming underwater and a fish swimming underwater. Which characterizes you when it comes to being patient? Would you say that the most patient people you have known are more like the fish?
- With whom do you let your impatience make you think that it's the other person who needs to change? To what extent does your impatience indicate that you need to change?
- Share with one another your reactions to the suggestion that our real assignment is not to be more patient but rather to love better.

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.