

Discipleship Groups

Week 42

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, take the opportunity to watch this week's video together. It can be downloaded or played from the website.

Following the video, talk with one another about your sense of the group's best future. No final decisions need to be made this week, but some questions that you may want to discuss together in order to help your conversation could include:

- What was your hope or expectation when you first signed up to be part of a Discipleship Group? How has your actual experience been different from what you hoped or expected?
- How has this group experience thus far helped you grow as a disciple?
- Do you believe this Discipleship Group experience would be beneficial for others in the church family? Do specific individuals come to your mind?
- What is your own fondest hope personally for your current group once we have completed our year-long course?
- Who in your group would serve effectively as a leader of a future Discipleship Group?

After sharing these matters with each other, pray together about your group -- thanking the Lord for what is past and seeking His guidance for the future. 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. . . .