

Discipleship Groups

Week 22

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 to maintain a weekly opportunity to pray for one another. The idea is not to pray individually for every single member of the group every single week. Rather, as the leader of the group, you would use your judgment of where folks are at and what they are sharing to ask, as it seems appropriate, "May we pray for you?" If the individual is amenable, you may choose to have the group gather around that individual for a time of concentrated group prayer for that person.

Next, as a follow-up to the previous two weeks of conversations, read portions of the 'descriptions of Jesus' that your group generated. Ask the group members which elements in those descriptions have stuck with them. Ask them to share a bit about their experience of making a conscious effort to live like Jesus during the past week. What went well? What was difficult? What did they learn?

After the initial conversation, the "soul question," the prayer time, and the discussion, transition the group to watch this week's video together. (The video can be downloaded or it can be played from the web site.)

Following the video, have a brief discussion together of the challenge of being "good." How has your definition or understanding of "good" been different from the apparent definition in Scripture? What is your reaction to the idea that people do not begin good but have to become good? How do you feel about the notion that it is not easy to be good, but that it's hard work? What is your response to the proposition that God wants us to be like Him -- to be good?

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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