

Discipleship Groups

Week 39

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.

Following the video, walk through these assignments together:

- Reflect individually on the fruit of the Spirit that we have been exploring together: love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control. Share one time during the past week when one of those fruit was needed, but you failed to bear "in season."
- Continuing to reflect on the nine fruit of the Spirit, share one time during the past week when one of those fruit was needed, and you did bear fruit "in season."
- Consider again the two specific examples shared by each person. To what extent would you say that bearing the identified fruit would have (or did) fulfill the WWJD question? In other words, to what extent is bearing that fruit in that situation living like Jesus?

Hand out copies of the daily reflection sheet (below). 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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Daily Reflection Sheet

Living LIKE Jesus

The Fruit of the Spirit

Our endeavor is to live like Jesus, and we've been using the fruit of the Spirit as a tool to help us understand what that kind of living looks like. Now, having completed our consideration of each of the fruit individually, we want to make sure that it goes from our heads to our hearts to our hands, as it were. We want to make sure that we are making daily application of what we have discussed and learned together.

To that end, you are invited to keep a sort of brief daily journal. For each day this week, we have identified three of the nine fruit. At the beginning of each day, pray about the fruit for each day, asking the Lord to show you the "season" for each. And, at the end of each day, go back and jot down your reflections about how those fruit impacted your day.

DAY ONE -- Love, Joy, Peace

DAY TWO -- Patience, Goodness, Kindness

DAY THREE -- Gentleness, Faithfulness, Self-Control

DAY FOUR -- Love, Patience, Gentleness

DAY FIVE -- Joy, Goodness, Faithfulness

DAY SIX -- Peace, Kindness, Self-Control

DAY SEVEN -- Love, Joy, Faithfulness

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