

Let's Go Group Studies

Leader's Notes

1. We're providing this material to you to remove some of the stress and frustration of developing a plan to lead a specific group study. It isn't meant to replace your individual preparation to lead. Our hope is that you would use it as a guide to your engagement with the text and the Holy Spirit and allow Him to lead you as you help your study's participants to have their own relevant encounter with scripture and the Holy Spirit.
2. This plan isn't meant to constrain you to lead in any specific way. **Please do modify it to better meet the needs of your group and to honor your gifting and authentic style.** For example, when and how you pray and share prayer needs should be in a rhythm that is good for your group as long as you are praying as a group. For another, who and how scripture is read should fit your group and its needs as long as it is read somehow.
3. **Be authentic.** If you find yourself saying "They are asking" as in, 'I didn't write this question and I don't really understand why it is being asked.' Don't ask it. Ask something else. It is okay not to understand everything. No one understands everything. If you don't believe in what you're saying, why should anyone else believe it? One way to turn this into a positive is to admit to the group that you are struggling with figuring out a particular bit and allow someone else to contribute their God-given wisdom.
4. Some questions, especially earlier in the study, aren't meant to be a mile deep or transformative. These questions are intended to prompt the participants to notice what is there. They give the participants a way to begin to care about the specific words on the page.
5. Portions of the plan in quotes are meant to be spoken out loud to the group as in, "Who's buried in Grant's Tomb?" You don't have to repeat the question or statement exactly as it appears. Restate it in a way that feels comfortable and natural for you.
6. Portions of the plan in *italics* are meant to be notes to you that you can use as prompts in aiding group discussion and aren't intended to be read verbatim to the group. They may not be the definitive answer but should be a good possible answer. As part of your preparation, please add to and edit the notes to fit where you intend to lead the discussion.
7. A **Follow up question** helps participants open up a little more and look a little deeper and is meant to be asked after there has been some discussion of the prior question.
8. The last page is the participant handout.
9. Please remember that our focus, purpose and practice is to **Love God, Love Others and Make Disciples.**

Let's Go- Going into Difficult Places

1) Scripture: Mark 6:6b-13

A. Parallel accounts- Mt 10:1-15; Lk 9:1-6

i. Note- While studying parallel accounts of this same event you will likely notice that there is a difference in how each writer deals with Jesus' instruction on taking along a walking stick. Commentators note that both Matthew's and Luke's accounts probably would be better understood as to not acquire any new walking stick and to use the one they have, if indeed they already have one. The gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark and Luke harmonize in that they share many of the same events and language but they show different facets of the same events based on the eyewitness source and the emphasis of the author. Please be at ease acknowledging that these type of differences exist and that scripture can, at first glance, give the impression of a contradiction. Those apparent contradictions fade with a more thorough study. In this case, the only person really affected was the guy who might have wanted a new walking stick but now had to go without it for this one trip.

2) Objective: After studying the listed scripture and participating in the discussion, each person should be able to identify at least one action item that will help them to begin or deepen their role in making disciples?"

3) Resources: Book of Mark, Grassmick. The Bible Knowledge Commentary, Walvoord & Zuck, Easton's Bible Dictionary, Easton, M.G., both Copyright 1983, 2003, 2004 by Cook Communications Ministries

4) Preparation:

A. Pray for guidance

B. Review Leader's Notes and read entire lesson plan

5) Prayer requests & Open in prayer

6) Intro:

A. "Last week I asked you to think about something you learned about in church, from the Bible or a biblical story or even from a friend that has never quite seemed to you true or correct. And then I asked you to examine the idea you identified in the light of scripture and prayer to come to a decision on accepting or rejecting this idea. Would anyone be willing to share if they were able to do that and tell us how you feel about the results?" *If you closed last week's study with a different question or application, substitute your closing for this one.*

B. "Tonight, we are looking at a significant event in Jesus' preparation of his disciples to lead and build his church. He is sending out his disciples to minister

on their own in his authority. If we are to take our mandate to make disciples personally, we must learn to minister to others as we have been ministered to. We can learn how we are personally equipped to make disciples. We can build our skillset to make disciples. We can prepare our lives and our finances to make disciples. But we will never make disciples until we **go** in faith to where and whom God has called us. Our unique abilities and willingness to serve must come into close contact with those whom God has prepared to receive our ministry.

C. When we are done, each of us should be able to identify at least one action item that will help us to begin or deepen our role in making disciples?"

7) The study

A. Ask for a volunteer to read Mark 6:6b-13

B. Ask everyone to complete question 1 on the handout. Allow 3-5 minutes for them to finish and then ask for volunteers to share their answers.

i. What do you notice about how the disciples were to prepare for their journey?

(1) *Going out in pairs. See John 8:17.*

(2) *Taking nothing extra*

(3) *Authorized to cast out demons*

(4) *Performed healings. Anointing the sick with oil is unique to Mark. This use of olive oil was both because of its medicinal properties (cf. Lk 10:34; Jas 5:14) and its symbolic value indicating that the disciples acted by Jesus' authority and power, not their own. (From Bible Knowledge Commentary)*

ii. What do you notice about what the disciples were supposed to do on their journey?

(1) *Stay in the same house, so don't upgrade and don't impose on too many people while you're there.*

(2) *"Shake off the dust" is a testimony against those who rejected them. See Mt 10:40. The Jewish concept of seluhim, that is, a man's representative (saliah) was considered as the man himself. (From Bible Knowledge Commentary) Rejecting Jesus' disciple was rejecting Jesus.*

C. **Follow-up question.** Ask "What is Jesus doing while his disciples are on their trip?"

i. *He is also out continuing his work. What does this say to you about what kind of leader Jesus is and models for us to be?*

D. Ask for a volunteer to read Mt 28:18-20

- E. Ask everyone to complete question 2 on the handout. Allow 3-5 minutes for them to finish and then ask for volunteers to share their answers.
- i. "Who is Jesus talking to and what is he telling them to do?"
 - (1) *He is directly addressing his, now eleven, disciples.*
 - (2) *Make more disciples. Teach them what they have been taught, make these new disciples like Jesus had made them.*
- F. Ask "What does it mean to you to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? How does a disciple think, feel and act?"
- i. *This is a place for freedom and creativity. Although there are wrong answers characterized by being contrary or outside God's will, there are too many right answers to list.*
 - ii. *'Go and make disciples' means going to where God calls you specifically. Honest missionaries will tell you that very few are called to the foreign mission field. Most of us are called to make disciples in the places we already are.*
 - iii. *Go slowly with this part. Let it be a time to dream God-sized dreams. Enjoy discussing the possibilities of God's calling.*
- G. Ask everyone to complete question 3 on the handout. Allow 3-5 minutes for them to finish and then ask for volunteers to share their answers.
- i. "What do you find unique about yourself that excites you about your part in making disciples? What do you think you'd have to change about yourself to do your part in making disciples?" *Ideally, these answers come from the participants. Whether they get them from the study, the Sunday sermon or elsewhere, the best thing that can happen here is they are verbalized by the participants. If they struggle to answer...*
 - (1) *I like to: teach, meet new people, serve, show mercy, be with those in crisis, fix things, sing, dance, write...*
 - (2) *Sin is bad and will dog us until we die. Learning to repent quickly and depend on Christ and his people to overcome our sin is disciple-level living.*
 - (3) *Make time, learn a new skill, be brave, make new friends, see people through Jesus' eyes...*
- H. Ask everyone to complete question 4 on the handout. Allow 3-5 minutes for them to finish and then ask for volunteers to share their answers.
- i. "What can you start this week to begin or deepen your role in making disciples?"

8) Summary:

- A. Encourage your group members to apply the ideas or principles they developed from question 4. Plan on asking them next week about the results.
- B. Close in prayer

