

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 and to begin to discuss the relevance of the scripture to their needs.
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 - Revolution Through Satisfaction

- 1) Scripture: Mark 6:30-44; Mt 6:11; Ge 3:19
 - A. Parallel accounts- Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-14
- 2) Objective: After studying the listed scripture and participating in the discussion, each person should be able to identify a specific need they can help meet that might show someone who God really is?
- 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 identify one thing you think God has called or is calling you to do for his kingdom that you think might bring you trouble or opposition." Would anyone be willing to share 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'll study Mark's account of Jesus miraculously feeding 5,000 men and their families. After a period of intense ministry Jesus recognized that he and his disciples needed to pull away from the crowd to rest and eat. But the crowd of people seeking after Jesus just wouldn't let them. In his compassion, Jesus met their most immediate needs, and in the process performed one of his most famous miracles. He multiplied a paltry amount of food into enough for the whole crowd. One lesson we can learn is how we can be part of God's provision and compassion to meet needs and show people who God really is.
 - C. When we are done, each of us should be able to identify a specific need that we can help meet that might show someone who God really is?"
- 7) The study
 - A. Ask for a volunteer to read Mark 6:30-34
 - 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 think Jesus recognized about the needs of his disciples and the needs of the crowd?"
 - (1) *The disciples needed time and space to rest, eat and likely wanted to hear from Jesus about how well they did and what their experiences meant for them personally.*
 - (2) *The crowd was desperate in their need and desire for what Jesus could do for them and teach them.*
 - (3) *Jesus understands that the most important thing the crowd needs is teaching and guiding. They need a shepherd.*
 - (4) *Jesus doesn't ignore a physical or spiritual need but finds a place in his ministry to meet each one in its turn.*

C. Ask for a volunteer to read Mark 6:35-44

- D. 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) "What are some of the details of this passage that stand out for you?"
 - (1) *A miracle happened. Let's not move past that too quickly.*
 - (2) *There is a remarkable specificity in the level of detail in Jesus' planning and direction. Even though Jesus provides in a miraculous way, he doesn't miracle away all that needed to take place. The disciples still had work to do.*
 - (3) *The confusion of the disciples in response to "You feed them" tells us their focus and dependence was still on their own efforts and abilities and not on God. Could this be a lesson for the disciples based on what they had reported to Jesus in verse 30?*
 - (4) *Not everyone had the capacity to understand what Jesus was trying to teach (He who has an ear let him hear) but how much hard soil (hardness of the heart) was broken up by something as simple as a good meal for a hungry person?*
 - (5) *Just want to make sure you didn't miss the miracle that happened.*

E. Ask for volunteers to read Mt 6:11 and Ge 3:19

F. Ask "Comparing these verses to the miracle in Mark, why do you think God only provides for our needs in a miraculous way on extremely select occasions? Or do you think everything he provides is miraculous?"

- i) *The conditions in which we find our work is one of the curses of sin but, most of us at least, must work to eat. God knows and provides for our daily physical needs.*
- ii) *The miracle is in Jesus doing something only God can do and is in this passage manifested in five thousand men and their families getting a good meal. God had provided for those people every day before and after that one. Of all the things God can do to show himself as God he most often chooses to do it by meeting a basic human need.*
- iii) *Think about how easily we forget about God's part in our daily provision and decide for yourself why God only performs the obviously miraculous on rare occasions.*

- 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) "Picture yourself at this miracle. What role would you play there? Are you the skeptical disciple? Are you trying to find the fishes and loaves? ...more baskets? Are you waiting to be fed?" *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.*
 - ii) **Follow-up question.** "What is unique about you and what you like to do that makes you think you might be in that role?"

- 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) "Jesus and his disciples both noticed need in the people around them but the disciples saw that need and its solution in a different way than Jesus. What specific need are you aware of that you can be a part of meeting that might begin to show someone who God really is? What does God need to provide and what do you think he expects you to do?" *Ideally, these answers come from the participants.*

- 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

Revolution Through Satisfaction

Mark 6:30-44

- 1) What do you think Jesus recognized about the needs of his disciples and the needs of the crowd?

- 2) What are some of the details of this passage that stand out for you?

- 3) Picture yourself at this miracle. What role would you play there? Are you the skeptical disciple? Are you trying to find the fishes and loaves? ...more baskets? Are you waiting to be fed?

- 4) Jesus and his disciples both noticed need in the people around them but the disciples saw that need and its solution in a different way than Jesus. What specific need are you aware of that you can be a part of meeting that might begin to show someone who God really is? What does God need to provide and what do you think he expects you to do?

For next time... Read Mark 6:45-56