

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 reads 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- Transformed

- 1) Scripture: Mark 9:1-13; 2 Peter 1:16-19; Romans 12:2; 2 Cor 3:18; Ex 33:19-20; Isa 53:1-12
 - A. Parallel accounts- Matthew 17:1-11; Luke 9:27-26
- 2) Objective: After studying the listed scripture and participating in the discussion, each person should be able to identify one thing they can do this week to cooperate with the Holy Spirit more fully as he seeks to transform them into the glorious person God wants them to become.
- 3) Resources: Book of Mark, Grassmick. The Bible Knowledge Commentary, Walvoord & Zuck; New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright © 1994, 2003, 2006, 2010 Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc
- 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 time I asked you 'What can you do this week to begin to realign your understanding of normal in your life with God's desire for your life?' Would anyone be willing to share if you were able to do that and tell us how you feel about the results?" *If you closed last time's study with a different question or application, substitute your closing for this one.*
 - B. "Tonight, we are looking at a turning point in Jesus' ministry. As he turns his eyes and his feet towards Jerusalem and the culmination of this mission on earth, he briefly reveals more than ever before his visible glory as the Son of God. He keeps this full glory hidden within his role as the 'Son of Man' and instructs his disciples to keep quiet about what they've seen for just a little while longer.
 - C. This moment of transformation reveals not only who Jesus is but it also reveals something of what we are to become. That hope and promise of the eternal glory to come can make the hardship and suffering of our present circumstances more bearable. Indeed, as we learn that it is by living through our hardship and suffering in the way that Jesus teaches us, we become transformed into the glory to come.
 - D. When we are done, each of us should be able to identify one thing we can do this week to cooperate with the Holy Spirit more fully as he seeks to transform us into the glorious person God wants us to become."

7) The study

A. Ask for a volunteer to read Mark 9:1

B. Ask "From what you already know what event do you think Jesus is referring to in this verse?"

i) *It's not abundantly clear why this verse begins chapter 9 instead of ending chapter 8 whose events it is more closely tied to. If you examine the parallel accounts, you'll find the narrative indexed (chapter and verses) in different ways. The phrasing of verse 2 links verse one's prophecy forward to what happens next. Luke's timing of "eights days later" likely reflects a difference in whole and partial days are counted.*

ii) *Could be:*

(1) *the transfiguration that happens within the week*

(2) *Jesus' resurrection and ascension*

(3) *The dramatic arrival of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost*

(4) *The explosive growth of the church*

(5) *Maybe its all of those and more*

C. Ask for a volunteer to read Mark 9: 2-8

D. 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 the details of the events of this passage tell us about Peter and what do they tell us about Jesus?"

(1) *Jesus' true nature and image, revealed only briefly and only for Peter, James and John, is one of glory. Among the heroes of Judaism, it is Jesus who is called 'Son' by heaven and it is Jesus who remains after Elijah's and Moses' appearance.*

(2) *Having already acknowledged Jesus as 'Messiah', in his terror Peter downgrades Jesus' title to 'Rabbi'. Peter's nearly routine exposure to the miraculous works of Jesus didn't adequately prepare him for exposure to his true glory. (Compare Ex 33:19-20). Seems like he wants to do the right thing but doesn't know what that is just then.*

(3) *James and John seem to be at a loss for words.*

(4) *God's direction for Peter, James and John? 'Listen to him (Jesus)' as in do what he says.*

E. Ask for a volunteer to read Mark 9:9-13

- F. 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) "All of Israel knew of and longed for 'the Messiah' because they had been taught he was promised and coming. Look at Isa 53:1-12 and at what Jesus says in this passage and list what you think Israel should have been expecting when the Messiah showed up."
 - (1) *Jesus as we see him in the New Testament.*
- G. Ask for volunteers to read Romans 12:2 and 2 Cor 3:18
- i) "The greek word for transformation or change used by Paul in these verses (*metamorphoo*) is the same word that both Mark and Matthew used in their description of the transfiguration of Jesus."
 - (1) *NT:3339 metamorphoo (met-am-or-fo'-o); from NT:3326 and NT:3445; to transform (literally or figuratively, "metamorphose"): (Stong's)*
- H. 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 insight into how our own transformation into beings of glory fit for the kingdom of God is similar to Jesus' transformation on the mountain?" *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) *As the Spirit remakes our mind we are being changed into the glorified image of Jesus. It is the practice of offering up ourselves to serve in the ways God calls us that leads to the changing of our minds.*
 - (2) *The better versions of who we are meant to, and will, be become more visible in this transformation.*
 - (3) *In our present redeemed but still broken condition it can be tough to comprehend fully the glory of our fully transformed selves.*
- I. 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 one thing can you do this week to cooperate with the Holy Spirit more fully as he seeks to transform you into the glorious person God wants you to become?"
 - (1) *Pray that he will give you a clear vision of who that is.*
 - (2) *Offer yourself as a living sacrifice.*
 - (3) *Use the gifts he has given you to transform your mind in their practice.*

(4) *Listen to Jesus (verse 7).*

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

Let's Go- Transformed

Mark 9:1-13

1) What do the details of the events of this passage tell us about Peter and what do they tell us about Jesus?

2) All of Israel knew of and longed for 'the Messiah' because they had been taught he was promised and coming. Look at Isa 53:1-12 and at what Jesus says in this passage and list what you think Israel should have been expecting when the Messiah showed up.

3) What insight into how our own transformation into beings of glory fit for the kingdom of God is similar to Jesus' transformation on the mountain?

4) What one thing can you do this week to cooperate with the Holy Spirit more fully as he seeks to transform you into the glorious person God wants you to become?

For next time... Read Mark 9:14-29