

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.
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 - Serve

- 1) Scripture: Mark 10:32-45; Acts 12:2; Rev 1:9; Rev 21:14
 - A. Parallel accounts- Matt 20:17-28; Luke 18:31-34
- 2) Objective: After studying the listed scripture and participating in the discussion, each person should be able to describe how their life would change if they embraced the values that Jesus teaches in this passage.
- 3) Resources: Book of Mark, Grassmick. The Bible Knowledge Commentary, Walvoord & Zuck, Easton's Bible Dictionary.
- 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 to pray that the Holy Spirit would give you the opportunity show love in your strongest and weakest way to those you interact with each day Could anyone share how those prayers were answered?"
 - i) *If you closed last time's study with a different question or application, substitute your closing for this one.*
 - B. "This week, Jesus and His followers continue their journey towards Jerusalem and Jesus continues to prepare His disciples for the time when He won't be physically with them. He wants them to know how to lead His people and what must happen to Himself as He completes His work on Earth."
 - C. Broken humanity has one set of values and God has a very different set. How different we must look to God than we do to each other. Let's take a deep dive into what Jesus tells us and models for us for lessons on what we should value in how we share life with those around us.
 - D. When we are done, each of us should be able to describe how our lives would change if we embraced the values that Jesus teaches in this passage."
- 7) The study
 - A. Ask for a volunteer to read Mark 10:32-34.
 - 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) “So, you’re walking along with Jesus on your way to Jerusalem. You’ve seen him do and say amazing things that only God could. You’re convinced that when you get to Jerusalem Jesus will establish Himself in power as the Messianic ruler that the scriptures have promised. You feel good about life. Jesus says what He said. Now, what are you thinking?”

(1) *I must not have heard that right. Why does He keep saying that?*

(2) *Did He just say He was going to be killed and then rise from the dead? This just got real.*

(3) *I really can pick ‘em, can’t I? Do I really want to be a part of this? I could just walk away.*

C. Ask for volunteers to read Mark 10:35-40 & Matt 20:20-23.

D. Ask “It is easy to speculate on what James and John thought they could gain from their request, but what do you think they had to lose?”

i) *Their lives and freedom. (See Acts 12:2 and Rev 1:9)*

ii) *The respect of their peers. Do you think their mother brought them to Jesus, or they brought their mother?*

iii) *Their hope that they were on the fast track to being in charge.*

E. Ask “What seems significant about Jesus’ inability to grant their request?”

i) *I thought Jesus could do anything.’ Its not that He can’t, but that He won’t. He submits to the authority of another, ‘not mine to give.’*

ii) *There is some irony in their sharing in the trouble as they say they can but not the specific glory they request. (See Rev 21:14, the apostles do have an exalted status in Heaven, but it is the one prepared for them.)*

F. Ask for a volunteer to read Mark 10:41-45

G. 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) “Using this entire passage, what do you think Jesus values highly?”

(1) *His people. He is preparing them for when He goes; He is teaching them how to live together in harmony.*

(2) *Submission & Humility. He models surrendering His power as God in favor of the plan and authority of another. He is giving His life as a ransom.*

(3) *Serving. It is interesting that He doesn’t leave middle ground or variable levels of obedience. It is a quantum change of first to last, leader to slave.*

- 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) "As specifically as possible, describe how your life would change in one way if you embraced and practiced these values of Jesus. It is good to dream big on this because the Holy Spirit wants to empower you to go big." *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.*

8) Summary:

- A. Encourage your group members to apply the ideas or principles they developed from question 3. Plan on asking them next week about the results.
- B. Close in prayer

Let's Go- Serve

Mark 10:32-45

- 1) So, you're walking along with Jesus on your way to Jerusalem. You've seen him do and say amazing things that only God could. You're convinced that when you get to Jerusalem Jesus will establish Himself in power as the Messianic ruler that the scriptures have promised. You feel good about life. Jesus says what He said. Now, what are you thinking?
- 2) Using this entire passage, what do you think Jesus values highly?
- 3) As specifically as possible, describe how your life would change in one way if you embraced and practiced these values of Jesus. It is good to dream big on this because the Holy Spirit wants to empower you to go big.

For next time... Read Mark10:46-52