



Discipling others

Touching base (5 minutes)

Open in prayer as is helpful for your group.

If this is your first session take time to introduce yourselves and set any ground rules you want to for your time together.

If you met previously take the opportunity either as a group or in pairs to check in with each other about how your response from last time has gone.



Opening question(s) (5 minutes)

How do I feel about helping others grow as disciples? Why?



Understanding the information (25 minutes)

Share these thoughts in your own words or read them together:

Jesus told us to “make disciples”. If we lack confidence in this it is worth noting that the call was given to every disciple. (Matthew 28: 16-20) The writer Bob Ronglien says, “...followers of Jesus are meant to look like a sheep from the front and a shepherd from the back. They look like a sheep from the front because they are following someone who is helping them learn how to follow Jesus. Likewise, they look like a shepherd from the back because they’re helping others learn how to follow Jesus.”



But we may worry that we don’t have the right to apprentice others, as we either don’t feel worthy, or we don’t want to judge others. There is a balance here. We certainly can’t judge anyone, both because of our own state, and because we can never truly know what is happening in someone’s heart. But just because we can’t see what is happening inside, as Sherry Wedell writes, “this does not mean that no fruits of personal faith are observable from the outside. And it certainly does not mean that a dramatic and widespread absence of these fruits in the community overall cannot be recognised and addressed.” She continues, “...let me stress that we cannot bring anyone to faith through pressure, guilt, argument or cleverness. Conversion and true faith are works of the Holy Spirit. But it is also true that we can, by our responses, help or hinder another’s journey.”

We can help others, or we can hinder them. Paul knew that he was a model for others, so when writing to his disciples in Corinth he said its simply: “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 11:1)

Bob Ronglien writes, “The call to make disciples is a call to point people towards Jesus by the fallible example of our lives. If people are only imitating us, they will get a degraded version of Jesus. People don’t need a perfect example of Jesus - they just need a living example. Paul would not let Timothy use his age as an excuse for not inviting people to imitate him.”

Take a look at the handout “Starting points for Sharing faith and discipling well” which offers a checklist of questions, beginning with having good initial conversations, to helping someone come to faith, to walking with them and seeing them grow.

Discuss: Which questions do you find most helpful? Most challenging? Is there anything missing?

Reading the Bible (15 minutes)

Read Matthew 28: 16-20 in which Jesus gives His disciples their main task.

Discuss the Discovery Bible Study questions:
What does this passage teach me about God?
What does this passage teach me about people?
How does this passage call me to obey God?
What might I do in response to this this week?

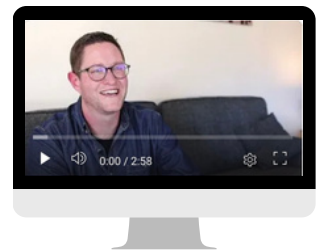


Seeing how it looks in real lives (15 minutes)

Watch the video at:

<https://youtu.be/HCQGSba3YKo>

What struck you as important in the video?



Responding to God’s leading (5 minutes)

Give people an opportunity to think about, “What might God be showing me and how might I respond?” They may like to write this down and/or share it with the group and/or share it with one other person. A friendly question is to ask each other, “Is there anything that would be helpful to ask you next time?”



Group prayer (5 minutes)

Why not pray for people you want to see become disciples, or grow as disciples. Ask the Lord to help you walk with them, and have the right questions at the right time.





Discipling others

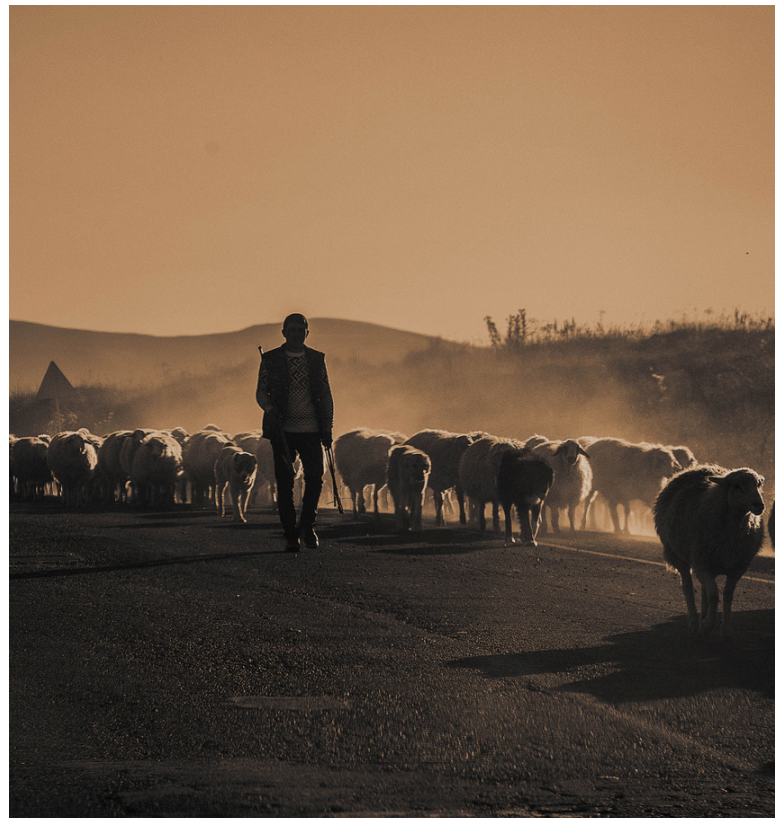
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STARTING POINTS FOR SHARING FAITH AND DISCIPLING WELL

HAVING A GOOD CONVERSATION:

How can I listen well? Where can I see God already at work in this person?

Who are you? (Finding out about them).

Where are you? (Finding out how they feel about faith)

Why don't you? (Working out the next helpful step on their journey)

HELPING SOMEONE START THE JOURNEY

What is the good news for them?

What does surrender to God look like for this person?

In what ways might they need to change their thinking about life?

In what ways do they need to trust God?

How might they put that into words?

What might we ask the Holy Spirit to do?

SOME GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR DISCIPLING WELL:

We grow through information, AND seeing living examples AND being able to put things into practice.

Am I modelling as well as explaining?

Am I supporting them in putting into practice what God is showing them?

What can I share of my own experience/struggles which might help?

How can I pray with and for this person?

BUILDING CONFIDENCE

Can they be baptised or confirmed?

How can I help them understand the two main themes of being a disciple: their identity (as God's covenant partner) and their purpose/calling (where they can seek His kingdom)?

How can I help them understand the big story of God's mission? .

EVERYDAY DISCIPLESHIP

How can I help them understand everyday discipleship?

How can I start to help this person start to pay attention to where God is at work in their lives and respond? How can I share/model this?

Which practices will help them start “being with God”? Worship, prayer, study, contemplating Scripture, resting, being still? How can I share/model them?

How can I help their mind be renewed through Scripture? What method of Bible reading might help? DBS?

You might like to focus on Discovery Bible Study Questions and to go through the passages below.

How can I help them see their daily work as discipleship?

GROWING LIKE CHRIST

How can I help them understand how God can grow Christ’s character in us?

How can I help them grow in a spiritually healthy life by sharing and modelling the balance between relationship with God (up), with church family (in) and with serving others (out)? Which needs emphasising the most?

Is going to church helpful at this stage or am I/we their church in this season?
How can I help them experience Christian community?

How can I help this person live into their giftings?

SUGGESTED DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY PASSAGES

Worth giving up everything for Matthew 13:44-46

What really matters to God Matthew 23:1-15, 25-28

Loving people like Christ Luke 10:25-37

The Kingdom is a reality Mark 2:1-12

The main thing Matthew 6:25-33

Not all who hear are fruitful Matthew 13:1-23

A religious leader learns from Jesus John 3:1-21

Show mercy and forgive others Matthew 18:21-35

Leadership in God's Kingdom Matthew 20:20-28

Doing life in the Kingdom with others Colossians 3:1-17

The Holy Spirit empowers Ephesians 3:14-20; Luke 10:1-12

True faith and false faith Matthew 7:13-28; Matthew 21:28-32



People don't need a perfect example, they just need a real one.