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Understanding a Win, Build, Send Ministry

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Jesus' command in Matthew 28:18-20 was to "Go into all the world and make disciples." Paul instructs Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:2, "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others." Our instructions are that "we proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ" (Colossians 1:28). A win-build-send ministry has spiritual multiplication as its goal. We are seeking to win people to Christ, build them in their faith, and send, train and equip them to reach others.

◆ WIN

- Sowing – the process of meeting and contacting a wide variety of students, arousing their curiosity about spiritual things, preparing them for a personal evangelistic presentation. This involves being where students are, and connecting with as well as encouraging spiritual interest.
- Winning – the process of sharing the gospel with students and asking for their response (evangelism). In Student Venture, we share Christ individually, to small and large groups. We share Christ in the course of daily living and interaction with students. We share Christ through specific group strategies.

◆ BUILD

- Follow-Up and Basic Growth – the initial step of helping a new Christian become grounded and established in his faith (Colossians 2:6,7). It is carried out immediately after a person's decision for Christ, usually in the context of personal appointments or a small group.
- Discipleship and Training – the deepening of a person's walk with Christ during which a person's trust, love and surrender to Christ grow stronger. As they grow to love Christ, ministry training (equipping) grows out of a person's desire to imitate Christ and be involved in reaching out to others.

◆ SEND

- Leadership – influencing others to love and follow Christ through evangelism and discipleship, as well as by words and action. Student Venture conferences, local ministry opportunities and international projects are strategies through which leadership can be developed. The ultimate goal is that students would "love the Lord their God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength" and that they would "go into all the world and make disciples" who would make disciples who would make disciples who would...

MY COMMITMENT

Because Jesus loves me and I love Him, I will:

- Commit myself to a love relationship with Jesus Christ – through praying, studying His Word, and allowing His Spirit to lead me each day (Matthew 22:36-38).
- Honor Christ in my moral life – my thoughts, words, actions and relationships (1 Timothy 4:12).
- Respect my parents and all authorities in my life – with love, honor and obedience (Ephesians 6:1-3; Romans 13:1).
- Involve myself in encouraging and uniting with other Christians, regardless of race, church or social status (Hebrews 10:24-25).
- Seek God through prayer, asking Him daily to bring spiritual awakening to my generation (2 Chronicles 7:14).
- Take the message of Christ to my school and world – by praying, living, and witnessing so that every student has the opportunity to know Christ (Acts 1:8).



Student Venture's Distinctive Marks

Marks of a Student Venture Movement

Definitions of Movement:

A General Definition

A group of people who are organized for, ideologically motivated by, and committed to a purpose which implements some form of personal or social change; who are actively engaged in the recruitment of others; and whose influence is spreading in opposition to the established order within which it is originated. From People, Power, Change: Movements of Social Transformation, by Gerlach and Hine

Spiritual Movement

A group of students and adults, motivated by faith, walking in the power of the Holy Spirit and united in purpose to evangelize their school. They share Christ throughout the campus and disciple those who respond. Spiritual leaders emerge and the culture of the campus is impacted and changed.

- Because junior and senior high school students are at the age where they must make lifelong decisions, and in light of their role in the future of the church and our country, we believe they are the critical age group to reach in America.
- We take the initiative with students, reaching out to them at a felt-need level, and taking every opportunity to introduce them to Jesus Christ.
- We believe that Christian junior and senior high school students, when built up and challenged in the context of caring relationships, are not only capable of living consistent Christian lives, but many are also able to multiply their faith among their peers.
- We appeal to the emerging adult side of students, as well as to their adolescent side, helping them to mature personally as well as spiritually.
- We are committed to working with the local church, helping students become actively involved.
- We believe young people and their campuses are most effectively reached as adult volunteers in the community help give leadership to students.
- We strongly support the role of parents and seek to minister to their needs, as well as to their children.

Three Heart Principles

1. Purpose

The development and growth of a movement is proportional to how well the individuals are gripped by a sense of purpose and cause.

2. Faith

Because God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, faith provides expectation of seeing God work in people and through the movement in extraordinary ways.

3. Dependence on the Holy Spirit

The essence of a spiritual movement is the Holy Spirit at work, transforming and empowering Christians, and drawing unbelievers to Christ.

Six Action Principles

1. Prayer

Prayer undergirds every aspect of building spiritual movement.

2. Evangelism

Staff and students are taking the initiative to share the gospel with an enlarging circle of students from the campus.

3. Discipleship

Discipleship assures the development of students as committed followers of Jesus, and the dynamic transfer of that commitment from one student to another.

4. Student Leadership

Movement cannot result if students are not empowered to lead.

5. Visibility Meetings and Events

Large exciting meetings create increased curiosity among non-Christians and greater boldness among Christians to share Christ.

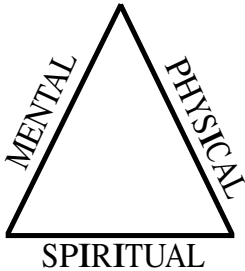
6. Community

The community provides critical resources and support for the movement.



Explaining Student Venture: School Within a School

Every student is looking for fulfillment. To find it, a balance needs to be established in three major areas:



- ▲ The school helps you to develop MENTALLY – through teachers, classes, homework and some extracurricular activities.
- ▲ School also helps you develop PHYSICALLY – with coaches, through P.E. classes, sports and other activities.
- ▲ The school isn't designed to help you SPIRITUALLY. That's where Student Venture comes in. We are designed to help you and other students help each other in the spiritual area.

To develop spiritually, an individual needs to understand and apply two things:

1. How to have a relationship with the person who made him, by knowing Jesus Christ.
2. How to develop that relationship with Christ, resulting in a lifestyle that is pleasing to God.

Has anyone ever explained to you how to begin a personal relationship with God? yes no
 If no, may I explain that right now? (*Go through The Four Spiritual Laws or Connecting with God booklet.*)
 If yes, would you share about how you became a Christian? (*Share the gospel if in doubt.*)

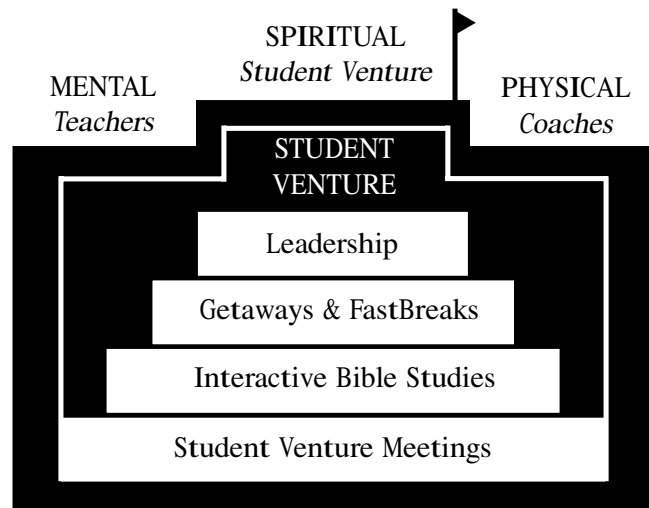
STUDENT VENTURE OFFERS A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES TO HELP STUDENTS GROW IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, WHEREVER THEY ARE IN THAT RELATIONSHIP:

◆ STUDENT VENTURE MEETINGS are to “Come and See” what a relationship with God is about. Students active in Student Venture help lead the meetings. It is a fun atmosphere, and through talks you will hear how God relates to you.

◆ INTERACTIVE BIBLE STUDIES help you “Come and Learn” about the basics of your faith. They provide training to help you grow and apply your faith with friends, school, sports, and family. Another benefit is that you are with a group of students you will most likely know.

◆ GETAWAYS & FASTBREAKS (AND RETREATS) give further instruction in how to help your friends develop a relationship with God and impact your campus for Christ! At these conferences, you will be given opportunities to “Come and Do” to put your faith in action. They are fun and you can build deep friendships with students from your school and other places.

◆ Student Venture LEADERSHIP Groups take action! They help you learn more about God, and how to influence your school for Christ. These students “Come and Lead” by giving leadership to Student Venture Meetings and events and may lead Bible studies of their own.



As you look at these four areas, which of these sounds most interesting to you?
 (*Give the appropriate information, and follow-up on their interest.*)



Meeting and Relating to Students: Gathering

AN INTRODUCTION TO GATHERING

Meeting students is going where students are, and taking the initiative to get to know them. Relating to students is initiating and interacting with students in a manner that enables you to get to know them and build rapport.

Biblical Basis: “We loved you so much we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God, but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us” (1 Thessalonians 2:8). Consider, too, the woman at the well. Jesus meets and befriends a Samaritan woman, addresses her need, and explains salvation to her. She is so changed by Jesus that she brings the whole town out to meet Him. As you think back over your life, who has had the most influence on you for the good. Describe your relationship with that person.

GATHERING HOW TO'S

Know your purpose. Your purpose is to share Christ and disciple those who respond. At the same time, your audience is made up of very relational people who live in a relational world. You will grow in credibility and platform to communicate your message as you relate well in the student world. It requires that you build as wide a circle of acquaintances as you can. You will have the opportunity to share the gospel with most of those acquaintances as time goes on.

1. Be yourself.

Be an insider – someone who gets to know the student culture and world. An insider is someone who adjusts their conversations to the student's interests rather than just their own; fitting in with them, not asking them to fit in with you. Be casual but definite. To be casual means that it is important to be relaxed and be yourself as you work among students. Enjoy yourself and enjoy them. To be definite means that your objective is to help that student spiritually. You do not just relate, but turn your conversations to his spiritual need. You are not there just to be a buddy, but a spiritual leader and mentor.

2. Prepare to meet students.

Prepare to meet students by looking in the high school yearbook, getting activities calendars, sports schedules, school newspapers, etc. Become a student of the school. Identify the various group affiliations of the students. Rely on students you know to help meet others. Pray daily for students, even though you don't know them. Learn the cultural norms of the school - i.e. what's in, what's not, how students think, etc. Ask God to provide you with opportunities to meet students, and expect Him to lead you to students He has prepared. A key to effectively reaching high school students is to be aware of their group orientation. When you meet a student, it is important not only to get to know him but find out what social, athletic, academic, or other type of group he is in. Movement develops more naturally when we reach and mobilize natural groups of students. Plan and begin your strategy. Meet students with breadth in mind. The more students you meet, the greater opportunity you have for outreach. Ask your Student Venture leader for help in developing your plan.

3. Go where students are.

Here are some typical places to meet students:

- Campus activities
- Athletic and school events
- Church
- On the street/in the neighborhood
- Other students' homes
- Assisting at school, i.e. coaching, school clubs
- Shopping malls
- Eating establishments



Meeting and Relating to Students: Gathering

While conversing with students, it is important to:

- Be a good listener.
- Show an attitude of acceptance.
- Don't be the one doing most of the talking.
- Ask perceptive questions about them.
- Look for areas of common interest.

4. Rely on students you know to help you meet others.

Most students have friends. Ask students you know to help you meet some of their friends at school events or other settings. Ask them to host or invite students to a pizza party or ice cream social.

5. Make prayer a priority.

Ask God to help you meet the students He wants you to meet.

6. Meet students who attend Student Venture events.

Talk with every new student you can at Student Venture meetings and events.

7. Be creative.

Team meetings, classroom speaking, creative outreaches, pick-up ball games, hanging out at kids' homes, coaching, helping with music and drama productions – all are ways you can meet students. Much of your ministry depends upon your willingness to be available and friendly, always meeting new students.



Using a Tool with a Student

How to Share the Gospel

- How to share the 'Connecting with God' booklet
 - Don't make assumptions about students knowing the Gospel
- Soularium Cards

How to Share the Ministry of the Holy Spirit

- How to share the 'Satisfied' booklet.
- Soularium Cards



Preparing Your Personal Testimony

WHAT IS A PERSONAL TESTIMONY?

A personal testimony is a prepared version of your coming to faith in Christ. It is designed to communicate – in a specific period of time (usually about 3 minutes) – what attracted a person to Christ, how that individual received Him, and the difference He has made in his/her life. A well-done personal testimony can be a powerful and effective tool in communicating the lifechanging reality of Jesus Christ. The dictionary defines testimony as “the statement or declaration of a witness under oath or affirmation, usually in court.” Another definition says “evidence in support of a fact or statement of proof.” When you give your testimony, you are giving witness of the difference Christ has made in your life.

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Note: The worksheets at the end of this lesson will help you prepare your personal testimony. Use the one which best suits you.

1. Think of changes Christ has made in your life.

Write down as many as you can think of; these may include relationships, values, attitudes, behavior, or goals.

2. Think about how your life was prior to these changes.

Write down some thoughts beside each of the changes, to help you remember what it was like before Christ. If you became a Christian at a young age, write the before story, even though you were a Christian.

3. Choose one “before Christ” story and one “changed life” story for the theme you want to develop.

It helps to develop a theme as a way of relating:

- Your “before Christ” story needs a theme to be something to which a non-Christian could relate.
- Your “changed life” story also needs to be something to which people can relate. You want to choose a theme which might prompt your audience to think, “I’m like that; I can see how Christ might relate to my life, too.”

4. Write out your “changed life” story and your “before Christ” story.

5. Insert the story of how you came to Christ.

Insert this after your “before Christ” story but before your “changed life” story. Include some of the things you thought, what attracted you to Christ, and a brief description of what you thought as you came to Christ. For example, “I realized that I was separated from God because of the things I had done against God, the Bible calls those things sin. I realized that Christ had died in my place to pay the penalty for those things and to offer my forgiveness. And, I put my faith in Christ as my way to get to God and as the one who forgave my sin. I invited Him to come live in my life and to control my life in order to make me the kind of person He wants me to be.”

6. Add beginning and closing statements.

You should now have the basic three-point outline of your personal testimony. Now, you can add your beginning and closing statements. Your beginning statement should be catchy; you might use an opening question. You want to draw your audience into what you have to say. Your closing statement should summarize what Christ has done for you and it should be well thought through. The most difficult part of speaking is to begin and close well.

7. Write out your testimony. Keep in mind the following:

- Don’t speak negatively about any group or church. It is best not to even mention a particular church or denomination.
- Don’t be grotesquely graphic or dwell on your life before Christ. You want to communicate the power of God to change a life – not how bad you were.
- Communicate as clearly and truthfully as possible how you became a Christian. By the conclusion of your testimony, listeners should understand how they could also receive Christ. Make it very clear how a person receives Christ; share the words you used when you accepted Him.
- The last segment of your testimony (what life is like now that you are a Christian) should mainly consist of changes in character or attitude, not just behavioral changes. You want people to see that the changes in behavior are the result of the changes that Christ has made within.
- Be honest and realistic about your Christian life now. It would be wrong to leave people with the impression that Christ eliminates all problems. Instead, you want them to see how Christ helps you face up to, and deal with, the problems of life.



Preparing Your Personal Testimony

- In your testimony, it is good to include a verse or short portion of Scripture that relates to your theme. Use no more than two Scripture passages.
- Try to keep your testimony less than three minutes. If the situation warrants, you can always elaborate where appropriate.
- Your closing statement is what people are likely to remember most. It should be powerful and memorable, and it is helpful to tie it in with your opening statement and theme.
- If you became a Christian at an early age, you might share how Christ has led you over a period of years, or how you came to the point of surrendering your life totally to Christ.
- Avoid using Christian terms which would not communicate clearly to a non-Christian person. Don't use words including "saved," "redeemed," "born again," and "quiet time."

8. Memorize and practice your testimony orally.

After editing and rewriting your testimony, you should memorize it. Memorization frees you to be natural and communicate clearly, rather than focusing on your next word. Practice giving your testimony to a small group or friend.

9. Present your testimony to an audience.

10. Evaluate your testimony with your Student Venture leader or another person whose opinion you trust.

Don't be concerned if your testimony is not filled with bank robberies, murders, or drug selling. You are seeking to relate to your audience. Hopefully not many of their lives are filled with those things either. Choose a theme you think people will relate to, but it does not need to be sensational and dramatic.



Setting Up a Personal Appointment

WHAT IS A PERSONAL APPOINTMENT?

A personal evangelism appointment is a scheduled get-together or meeting between a student or several students and yourself, that provides an opportunity for evangelism. The appointment comes generally from a screened contact or a conversation which uncovers some spiritual interest.

WHAT IS A SCREENED CONTACT?

- A screened contact is a student who has indicated some need for follow up through filling out a response card as a result of attending a Student Venture Meeting, team meeting, or a Classic.
- A screened contact is a student who has indicated some spiritual interest through a conversation you or a student have had with them (i.e. wants a related article; wants to talk further about subject content at a meeting or has indicated a decision for Christ.) You may also discover as you are casually interacting with students that a student has an interest in knowing Christ and would be willing to hear more.
- The purpose of meeting the student is for evangelism.

SETTING UP AN APPOINTMENT

- Gather necessary materials (*Connecting with God* booklets, Getaway brochures, fliers for the next Student Venture Meeting or Classic).
- Call the student who has expressed interest (usually from contact card). Explain why you want to meet. Say something like, "I would like to get together and tell you more about Student Venture. You indicated on your comment card from the meeting that you wanted to get involved with Student Venture."
- Ask the student to make sure their parents know about your meeting and leave your phone number in case the parents have questions. Either after the appointment or through the mail or phone, make sure the parents have any information about Student Venture they would desire at this point.
- Determine a place and time to meet. Usually a neutral location (such a restaurant) after school or during a free period is the best.
- When asking the student to meet, be casual but be definite about the meeting, it is time and place.
- Work in groups if possible; gather kids who already know each other.
- Invite a student you're working with to come along. This is a good training experience for the involved student.

MEETING WITH THE STUDENT

- Pray first – for sensitivity to the student and the Lord, open heart for student, etc.
- Avoid speaking in 'Christianeese' (Christian buzzwords that the student may not understand).
- Build rapport by asking good questions. Find common ground through people, events, and/or experiences.
- Explain Student Venture (School Within a School, activities, etc.).
- Transition into the gospel through one of several ways, such as:
 - ◆ "One of the things we talk about in Student Venture is what it means to know God personally. Has anyone ever taken the time to explain to you how you could know God personally?"
 - ◆ If you were to die tonight, how sure would you be that you would go to heaven, on a scale of 1 to 10?
 - ◆ If when you died, you were to appear before God and He asked you, why should I let you into my heaven, what would you say?
 - ◆ Give your personal testimony, then ask if they would be interested in knowing more about a personal love relationship with God.

SHARING THE GOSPEL

- Observe their response to the gospel. Ask, "Have you ever invited Christ into your life?" "If so, when?" If they are not ready yet, don't push them. You can say "Student Venture is a great place to come and check out what it means to know God personally."
- Mention activities to challenge them to stay further involved (Getaway, next Student Venture Meeting, Bible study, etc.).
- Thank the student for coming and follow up as needed to their response to the gospel.



Setting Up a Target Group Outreach

WHAT IS A TARGET GROUP?

A target group talk is a pre-evangelistic talk or presentation, usually at school, which serves to salt students thinking and expose them to an outreach at a later time. The outreach is the evangelistic meeting for a specific team, club, or group designed around the interests and needs of the group.

HOW TO SET UP A TARGET GROUP OUTREACH

- Determine which group you would like to target.
- Attend some function, game, play or function where most of the group is in attendance prior to the outreach if possible. It will build your credibility to know more about the group. You can use examples from your observations.
- Meet the coach, teacher or sponsor of the group and explain Student Venture. Give them a list of topics that you are prepared to talk about. Ask if there are any of those topics which would help their group. Set a time and date either before or after practice, during a class, etc. when your talk would be appropriate. If you set up the talk a week or more in advance of the talk itself, it is recommended that you confirm with the coach or sponsor a few days before. Also make sure they know about the outreach and ask if you are able to pass out the fliers for the outreach or if the students should do it on their own time.
- Meet with some students from the team to get their help in planning the outreach: time, day, place, content, and follow-up plan. Ask them also if they would invite people from their group or team.
- Conduct the pre-evangelistic team or group talk. Tell them about the outreach to be held either that day or within a couple days of your talk with the group. Have fliers for the outreach available.
- Conduct the evangelistic outreach at a student's home who is in the group or a neutral community location which is familiar and accessible to the students. This is best done right after they are all together (i.e. after practice).
- Content of the outreach would include free or discounted food, an evangelistic talk, a crowdbreaker or some friendly games or competitions, social time, and a student testimony or two. And, include a response device so that you are able to follow up those who are interested.
- At the outreach, you will want to tell the students about the follow up meeting – when and where. Make sure you also have a flier for the follow up meeting.

Note: If you do not present an initial pre-evangelistic talk, you can still do creative outreaches in much the same way.

IDEAS FOR TALKS

Following are some ideas for talks to present at a target group outreach. See your Student Venture leader for further ideas and talk outlines. (Can be found online at <http://www.gocampus.org>)

- Athletic Teams – Team Unity; Ingredients of a Champion: Desire, Dedication, Determination; The Total Athlete; Characteristics of a Winner
- Student Council – Leadership Styles; Setting Goals; Temperaments (including a simple temperament test)
- Classroom Speaking – Alcoholism, Suicide and Depression; Anger; Finishing the Race: Overcoming “Senioritis”; Stress Management
- Band or Drama – Unity; or bring in a professional in the field to lead a workshop
- Health Classes – Love, Sex and Dating; AIDS; Abstinence; Relationships; Self-Image

OUTREACH IDEAS BEYOND TEAMS AND SCHOOL GROUPS

- 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament
- Beauty Makeover Party
- Frisbee Golf Tournament
- Student Leadership Breakfast (or Dinner)
- Viking Feast (eat food with hands and no utensils)
- 100-foot Banana Split Party
- Make-Your-Own-Sundae Party
- Evangelistic Fashion Show
- Slumber Party for Girls Only
- Campout for Guys Only
- Paintball or other activity kids in your area enjoy
- Video Party – show a relevant video which relates to students' interests
- Christmas in October – crafts, cooking, etc.
- Fifth Quarter – held after an athletic event

WHAT IS FOLLOW-UP?

Follow-up is the initial step in helping a young Christian become grounded and firmly established in his faith.

Colossians 2:6-7 “So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”

Follow-up is critical in helping a new believer transition to a new life of faith and establish a solid foundation for his relationship with Christ.

CRITICAL NEEDS OF A NEW CHRISTIAN

The following are critical needs in a young Christian’s life:

- Encouragement from a friend who will come alongside.
- Knowing how to grow spiritually.
- Protection from discouragement.
- Knowing the basic truths upon which his new relationship with Christ is built.
- Assurance that Christ came into his life and his sins are forgiven, and that he has eternal life.
- A group of believers to which to belong.

STEPS TO FOLLOW-UP A NEW BELIEVER

1. Pray with and for the new believer.

Praying for new believers is very important. Paul gives us his prayer in Ephesians 1:15-23 and Colossians 1:3-4.

2. Begin follow-up immediately within 24-48 hours.

Contacting a new believer as soon as possible is important. He/she will probably have questions and maybe some doubts. He/she needs your attention right away.

3. Set up an appointment.

Personal appointments are an effective method of follow-up because they allow for focused time to interact, build relationships, and discuss important spiritual principles. If possible, bring another Christian student along, preferably someone the new student knows.

4. Meet for your first appointment.

Some suggestions on what to do your first appointment are to personalize your time by asking question about him, discover his interests, talk about what motivated him to receive Christ, explain what it means to grow as a Christian. If he has been a believer for a while, ask him to share what has happened in his life since he received Christ, and review the gospel message to make sure he knows Christ.

5. Continue the follow-up process.

Once a young believer begins his relationship with Christ, he needs to continue to grow in that relationship. Your job is to communicate the basics and get him started in the process. The following are essential truths contained in basic follow-up

- Assurance that he has received Christ
- Understand the forgiveness he has in Christ
- Understand his new identity in Christ
- Growing knowledge of Jesus Christ
- Understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit
- Understand how to read the Bible

6. Involve him in a small group.

Once you have completed three or four follow-up appointments, it is important to involve a young Christian in a small group to help him continue to grow spiritually.

BIBLICAL ENCOURAGEMENT

- Colossians 3:16 – “Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom.”
- 1 Thessalonians 2:7,8,10-12 – “As apostles of Christ, we were gentle among you like a mother caring for her children. We love you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God, but our lives as well. You are our witnesses of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you. For you know that we dealt with you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting, and urging you to live lives worthy of God.”
- 2 Timothy 2:2 – “The things that you heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.”

STARTING YOUR GROUP

Begin with the end in mind – Jesus worked with people in a variety of ways. Leading a group begins to take them into the discipleship process. In Robert Coleman’s “Master Plan of Evangelism,” Jesus’ process for disciple building is outlined with the following process:

- **Selection** – What Jesus saw in the disciples was their eagerness to learn. They had a “sincere yearning for God and the realities of His life.”
- **Association** – Jesus drew his men close to Himself. He spent time with them. They were with Him as he lived his life.
- **Consecration** – Jesus required obedience. They were asked to follow Jesus. They were asked to count the cost.
- **Impartation** – Jesus gave Himself away to the disciples. He gave away what the Father had given Him. As they learned from Him, they learned His very life.
- **Demonstration** – Jesus demonstrated Godly living at every turn. The disciples didn’t just learn about God, they saw God living day to day. Class was always in session and truth was always being taught, by spoken and unspoken word.
- **Delegation** – Jesus’ pattern was to get the disciples into a vital relationship with God, show them how it worked and then involve them in the process. He gave them ministry to do. He was preparing them for the day when they would go to the world with the gospel.
- **Supervision** – Jesus met with His disciples to hear about their service and to teach them again. His teaching rotated between instruction and assignment. Jesus reviewed and made application as they prepared for more. Jesus was with them as they walked through the assignments He had given.
- **Reproduction** – Jesus expected that His disciples would reproduce their faith into the lives of others. He taught with reproduction in mind. He was preparing His disciples to make disciples. Jesus began with the end in mind. He began with the goal of making disciples who would make disciples who would make disciples who would ... In Student Venture, we are seeking to make disciples who would make disciples who would ...

From the beginning of our relationship with a student, we are offering the opportunity to go as far as they are willing to go in the process of becoming a disciple of Christ. We are seeking to offer to students an environment, which feeds and uncovers hunger for God.

COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID

A note of caution: It is possible for leaders to become unbalanced in the process of disciple making. Some common mistakes are:

1. Select a group too quickly and then get frustrated when the students don’t make the progress you expect.

Remember that discipleship is a process. And, you cannot make someone become something they do not want to become.

2. Quit doing broad sowing and evangelism because you have a group.

That is not Jesus’ pattern and it will not serve you well to minister that way.

3. Select a group but only lead their Bible study instead of their discipleship process.

Remember that building the relationship is key to successful disciple making. And, discipleship is much more than just leading a Bible study.

4. Keep gathering new students without discipling those who respond.

If you don’t build student leaders, your movement will have a weak foundation.



Starting and Leading a Small Group

THE DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS WEEK TO WEEK

The growth process in the life of a believer has both big jumps and steady growth. While God will orchestrate both processes in a person's life, He will also use you as a stimulus to spiritual growth. A guide (one who has been down the path before) walks alongside at times, while walking in front at other times, and pushing the one who is being led at other times.

1. Challenge students to go as far as they are willing to go.

From the beginning of your relationship with students, seek to encourage and feed hunger for God and the things God cares about. From the very first comment card or conversation to uncover spiritual interest, you are "selecting" students (through their response). Your early "association" may be nothing more than attending games students play in and spending time with them during their follow-up group meeting. As students show progress in their hunger and obedience to Christ, you should also begin to increase in the role you (or one of their leaders) play in their discipleship. Challenging is the process of providing greater opportunity for students to respond to the call of Christ in their lives. This may come through our invitation, exposure to the Word of God, an opportunity for faith-stretching Christian service, exposure to a more mature believer, a thought-provoking question, or simple exposure to a faith stretching experience. It takes involvement in a person's life. While God, through His Holy Spirit, has initiated a process of conforming a young believer to Himself, He has also chosen you to play a part. As a leader, you want to play that part with excellence.

2. Preparation is an important key to a successful group.

You should spend as much time as needed every week preparing for the time with your group. Proper preparation will give you a confidence and a familiarity with the content that will enable you to be relaxed and flexible with the group. You are the leader of the group not the material/content. In other words, the material and content is there to serve as a skeleton around which your personal stories, examples and illustrations will provide the necessary flesh.

3. Lead your group in the steady growth of their Christian life, week to week.

You will want to teach your group the Word. During the week, build your relationship with students. Remember that relationships are an integral part of discipling young people.

Here are some ideas:

- Be an encourager. Think the best.
- Show special kindness. Learn to be a giver of your time and your possessions.
- Find out what their interests are and do the things they want to do. Put the student before yourself.
- Go places together. If you are planning any kind of activity – shopping, recreation, doing some work for someone – invite a student to go along.
- Phone or e-mail. Let them know you're thinking about them.
- Exercise or work out together.
- Study together, doing either schoolwork or Bible study.
- Eat together. Going out to eat is a great time for fellowship and talking.
- Invite them over for dinner.
- Attend Christian activities together – i.e. concerts, etc. Select activities that will help their growth.
- Write them when you are out of town.
- Share personally what God is teaching you. Don't be afraid to share some of your own needs.

Curriculum



The curriculum is designed for a semester at a time. Below is a suggested outline of the order you could take your students through. You can move them around as you seek to meet the most immediate needs of your group.

Essentials Part 1

4 Week Follow-Up
4 Walks
8 Week Challenge
4 Talks
4 Ministries

Identity in Christ

Girls: 'Do you think I'm beautiful?'
Guys: ?
'Who I Am' Sheet

Evangelism

Preparing personal testimony 'Go Fish'
Connecting with God booklet Simply Youth
Soularium Ministries
Setting up personal Outreach
Top 10 List
'Questioning Evangelism' ~Randy Newman

Personal Growth/Spiritual Disciplines

Bible Study
Prayer

Discipleship

Master Plan of Evangelism
Simply Youth Ministry
Learning how to do follow-up

Character/Relationships

Christ-like Character
Biblical Relationships

Attributes of God

Essentials Part 2
4 Facts (about Jesus Christ)
4 Helps (provided by the Holy Spirit)
4 Attitudes (you should have toward God)

Apologetics/Worldviews

Darwin's Dangerous Dogma



Appendix

Target Group Outreach Worksheet

Detail Outline for Planning Outreaches

Target group:

Their needs:

Prayer: (who will make sure people are praying?)

Hook/Theme: (what's the draw to get everyone out?)

Date/time: (can all the groups make it? need to ask coach?)

Location: (a home, school cafeteria, classroom, local food chain?)

Reserve location: (able to use kitchens/ovens?)

Parental involvement:

Food/Refreshments: (Who is preparing the food and getting it there? Can you get it donated? Do you need paper products? Can students serve themselves or do you need people to help set out food? Who will help clean up?)

salad:

entree: (parents make it? Fazoli's donation of spaghetti?)

dessert: (homemade, donation from Whataburger?)

drinks:

plates, cups, napkins:

tables/chairs:

other: (cooler, ice)

Amount to charge each person: (free? \$3?)

Publicity: (fliers, word-of-mouth, invitations? If no one knows about the event, then no one will come. Plan this part well! Make fliers or invitations ahead of time. Make a big poster to put in the locker room)

Games and Crowdbreaker (if needed): (Make sure you know what you will need. Try out the game first before doing it at the outreach. Make sure your activity is fun and involves everyone. Be sure that your instructions make sense to everyone.)

Emcee and Speaker: (Get ideas for topics and possible speakers/emcees from others. Let people who are involved in the outreach know the time and place to meet to prepare)

Student Testimony: (when prepare w/ staff person?)

Gospel: (when prepare w/ staff person? diagrams)

Follow-up: (Make sure there are comment cards and pencils for everyone. Let others know how and when to pass out and re-collect cards and pencils. Contact those who trust Christ within 24-48 hours.)

Bible study: (co-ed?, where, when, who lead?)

Atmosphere/music: (banner, butcher paper on tables, poster board)

Set up & Clean up:

Name tags:

Prizes:

Conference challenge/invite:

Rides to/from for Freshman/Sophomores:

Others who can come & help, especially if there is a possibility for them to do an outreach with their own group:



Appendix Target Group Outreach Worksheet

REACHING YOUR CAMPUS

Student Outline

In the middle circle enter your name and then draw arrows away from your name. Put circles at the end of the arrows with the names of clubs, teams, classes, or special groups that you are involved in or with special groups of friends.

Write down Acts 1:8 as it relates to you. (Who is your Jerusalem, your Judea, etc.?)

(Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.")

Think through your plan:

How can it be accomplished?

Who can help me?

What should we do?

When to get going?

Write out how you would apply the phrase "for such a time as this" to your life?

(Esther 4:14 "who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?")

BRING:

CDplayer, Music, microphone, banner, camera, extra batteries, cell phone, club pass stickers, fliers for next meeting, conference brochures, Mascot game/blo-pops, SV sws, comment cards, pencils, bucket, door prizes, announcements, snacks, cups, ice, cooler, clean up stuff, trash bags, towels, napkins/paper towel, duck tape, supplies for game, stop watch, bowling pins, tarps, back up game, nametags
gospel diagrams, disclaimer, Connecting W/ God booklets,

Announcements: SV weekly mon nites, FB Bible study on Tuesday's
disclaimer:

I told you last week that I was going to tell you how Student Venture could help you develop the spiritual side of your life. I respect you as young adults and want to treat you that way. If you, or your parents, wouldn't want you to hear about how to develop a relationship with God, then I don't want you to feel pressured in any way. I want you to feel free to step outside for a few minutes. You can still eat with us afterwards in about 15 minutes. But, I hope that you would want to stay because I think you'll enjoy it. I believe it will benefit you greatly, on and off the mat.

TESTIMONY

Success? : Deon Sanders, "all my life, thinking football, baseball, finances, women, personal accomplishments could bring peace in your life. It didn't. It never would. Be a part of two Super Bowl-winning teams. Be in a World Series. You'd think that this man has peace. But I never had it until now."

I Tim 4:8 "For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."

don't get me wrong, I played FB at BU and had to work hard and train

LAW 1

God's Love - John 3:16

God's Plan - John 10:10

LAW 2

Man is sinful - Rom 3:23



Appendix

Target Group Outreach Worksheet

created to have fellowship w/ God

Man is separated - Rom 6:23

diagram

only way to bridge gulf

LAW 3

He died in our place - Rom 5:8

He rose from the dead - I cor 15:3-6

He is the only way to God - John 14:6

diagram

LAW 4

We must receive Christ - John 1:12 As many as...

We receive Christ through faith - Eph 2:8-9 - gift-Reggie White tape

When we receive Christ, we experience a new birth

We receive Christ through personal invitation - Rev 3:20 - heart

Act of the will

1. You see, we must individually make a decision of our will to accept Christ as Savior and Lord.

2. There's no works that we can do to earn our way to heaven. It's a gift we either accept or reject.

what % of sin forgiven for each heart?

- Which heart describes you?

- Which would you like it to be?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, I need you. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Thank you for forgiving me of my sins and giving me eternal life.

Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person you want me to be. AMEN

If you prayed that prayer and really meant it w/ your heart, what happened?

COMMENT CARD:

Before I go on, I want to make sure I have everyone's attention. This is the most important decision you will and could ever make: Who would you say Christ is? And, do you know Him personally? This decision has nothing to do with going to church or being a good person. If you prayed with me to ask God to forgive you of your sins and to change your life for the first time...

Bible study information:

For all of you that are interested, we are going to have a short 4 week Bible study for you guys only. It'll start next week and will last one hour after practice on _____. Lots of other teams have participated in these Bible studies and have really enjoyed it. You don't have to know anything, all you have to do is basically show up.

DOOR PRIZES

Send

Student Leadership

The last 3 topics are not exclusive to the leadership level; however they are the 3 areas of focus that we desire our leadership students to be equipped and empowered to know & live.

Build

Small Groups

Building on the foundation that is being laid in the 'Win' environment, these 3 topics form the core of what we believe students need to grasp in order to walk with God for a lifetime.

Win

Weekly Meeting

These are the basic core essentials that we believe are the foundation for effective ministry. These 3 areas form the mainstay of our most basic environment - the weekly meeting.

Worldviews & Apologetics

Understands the basic worldviews and is able to defend why they believe what they believe

The Church

Is involved in a local church and is seeking to reach out to friends and family members

Coming to Live the Biblical Mission

Is involved in helping fulfill the Great Commission. Can communicate the Gospel and basics of the Christian faith & does so as a way of life. Is developing as a leader & is serving others in ministry.

The Means of Grace (Spiritual Disciplines)

Bible Study, Prayer, Fellowship With believers, Witnessing to the Lost

The Attributes of God

Who is God and why is it important? God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Christ-Like Character

Growing in their character and integrity in desiring and acting on what is right as God defines right

Freedom in Christ & The Power for Life

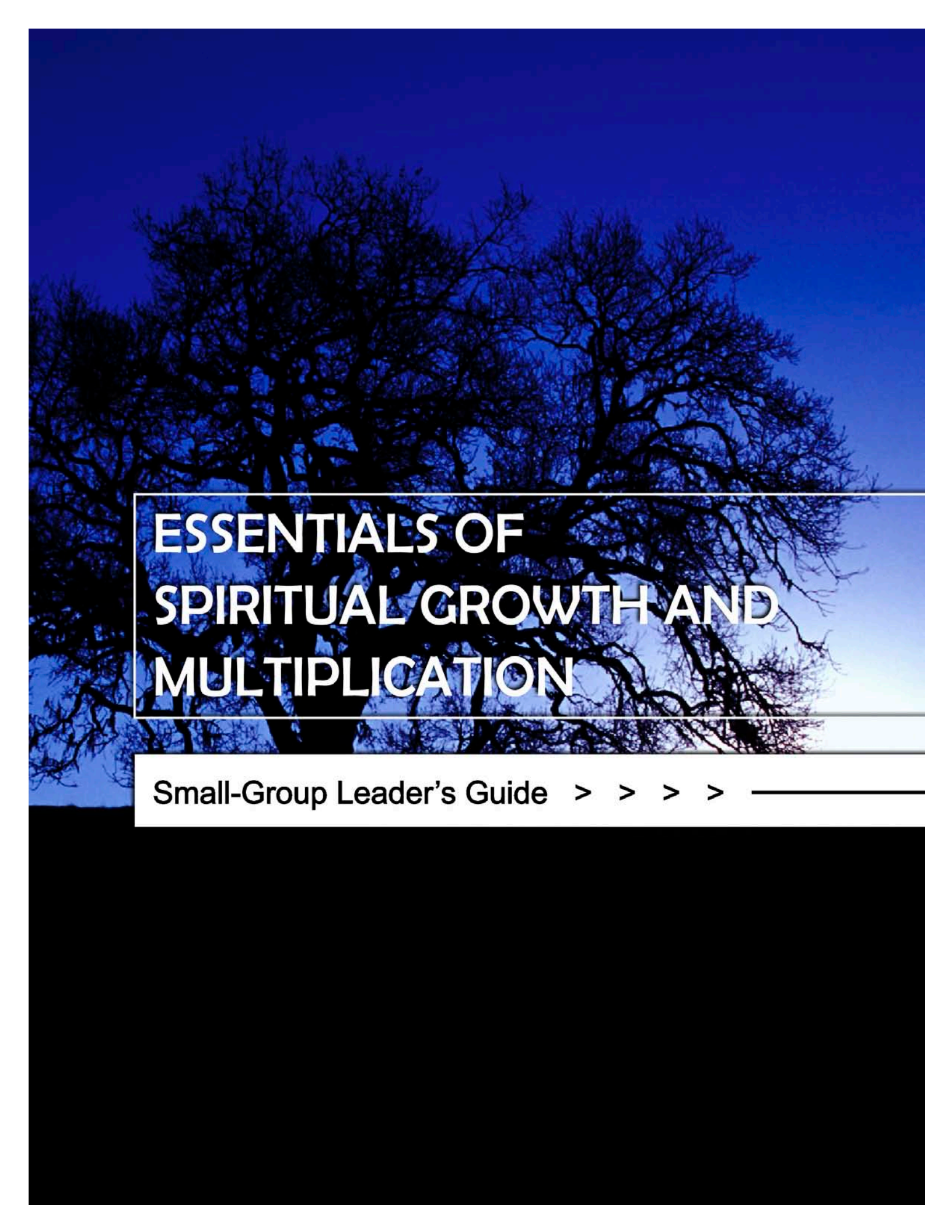
Filling of the Spirit; Experiencing God's Love & Forgiveness; Abiding in Christ (John 15)

Key Biblical Relationships

God, Parents, Friends (Believers & Lost), Authorities, Boyfriend/Girlfriend

Identity in Christ

Understands the Gospel and who they are in Christ. Assurance of Salvation



ESSENTIALS OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND MULTIPLICATION

Small-Group Leader's Guide > > > > —————

INTRODUCTION



Congratulations on your willingness to pass on to others how they can begin to enjoy an authentic, exciting relationship with God. The Apostle John put it this way: “We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete.” (1 John 1:3-4, NIV)

What follows is a very simple way for you to lead a small group discussion on some of the most essential principles of relating to God and living the Christian life. Although the approach is simple, the teaching methods employed are relevant to the way most people prefer to learn: connecting with peers, discussing versus just listening, considering life stories, and making immediate practical application.

So how can you get started? The best way is to pray for wisdom and confidence. God is quite able to give you whatever you need to lead your group. The next step is to invite some of your friends to the group meeting, at a time and place convenient for you and the others.

Once you are committed to that, you will likely find these materials extremely helpful. Page 7 in Part 1 and page 35 in Part 2 give you an overview of what you will be discussing in the sessions. Notice that there are six groupings of four topics each. This gives you flexibility, if needed, to challenge your friends to one four-session segment at a time. Each segment covers an important theme in living the Christian life. For example, in the 4 Walks, your group members will discuss knowing God and starting to relate to Him.

This Leader’s Guide is designed to be very easy for you to use. Each session has one main page of leader’s notes (Group Discussion Outline) to help you facilitate. Just to the left of that page is a Session Preparation Checklist. It is designed to help you prepare for that session. Notice that each passage of Scripture discussed has a specific alternate set of questions you can use if you would like.

In experimenting with the “Essentials” series, sometimes group leaders didn’t give priority to the last two sections of each session: APPLY and TELL. Be aware that movements of spiritual multiplication are most evidenced by changed lives and frequent conversations about Jesus. So be sure to feature those two parts of each session.

This leads to the importance of encouraging your group members to consider leading their own groups soon. In Part 1 page 6 you will see a section entitled MULTIPLY. There you will read more on whom to challenge and how to get them started. Keep in mind that the majority of the spiritual impact you are likely to have in this lifetime will be through the ministry of those you disciple who in turn disciple others. In 2 Timothy 2:2 Paul explains how central multiplication should be.

In conclusion, more than anything else, realize that it is God who touches lives and causes spiritual growth and multiplication. Pray often that He will work supernaturally through you and your group members.



ESSENTIALS OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND MULTIPLICATION – PART 1

Small-Group Leader's Guide > > > > _____

HOW TO LEAD A SESSION



To prepare for the first session, take a look at the Session Preparation Checklist and Group Discussion Outline on pages 8 and 9 of Part 1. They relate to the first topic, 4 Walks >> Walk Assured. Note the session has four parts which are explained below.

CONNECT: After connecting personally, you pray and then state a simple truth of life: “Relationships thrive on acceptance and assurance.” You have probably experienced that, and so have your group members. So it should be easy to share experiences. After sharing, make a very simple transition to reading from the Bible by saying, “So it is in a relationship with God.”

HEAR: Taking one Bible passage at a time, just ask, “What do you think this passage teaches us?” After some discussion, ask the next two questions: “What can we learn about God or our response to God?” and “How do you think this passage relates to the topic we discussed earlier: Relationships thrive on...?”

Or, you can use the alternate questions found in the Session Preparation Checklist. There are specific questions provided for each Bible passage used in a session. So, for example, when discussing the first Bible passage (Luke 15:11-24) you can use these three questions:

1. What are some evidences of the father’s love and acceptance of the prodigal son?
2. In what ways were the son’s thoughts and actions reflective of the father’s love and acceptance?
3. What are some things we can learn about relationships from this parable?

As you lead the discussion, remember that you are seeking to engage people in the learning process versus just telling them what they need to know. In light of that, keep asking questions, listen intently to their answers and often say, “What do the rest of you think about this?” If you encounter silence in answer to a question, call on someone who often has something to say. If some people have been quiet for a while, ask if there is something they would like to add.

Try to sense when your group members are really seeing how this truth works in a relationship with God. (Note that you might not need to discuss all the Bible passages or ask all of the discussion questions to accomplish this.) One way to transition to APPLY is to review what has been covered: “We agreed that relationships thrive on acceptance and assurance. We also saw that God does accept us. But that won’t help us unless we feel sure of His acceptance.”

APPLY: At the appropriate moment in the above review, state that it is important to: “Be sure of your personal relationship with God.” In other words, the Bible teaches that God loves and accepts you as His child, if you have trusted Christ as your Savior.

Have them write the “lesson learned” in the space provided in the ½ page “mini-journal” shown at the end of Part 1 of this Small-Group Leader’s Guide. (You will need to print copies of the “Four Walks” handout before your session.)

Of course, the lesson learned is most helpful if your group members apply it to their lives. That is the next step: Ask, “Why don’t we always experience assurance in our personal relationship with

God?” In other words, if the Bible teaches that we are accepted by God, why don’t we always feel accepted by Him?

Once that discussion surfaces the barriers, it will be easier for each group member to answer the next question, “What is one action you can take this week to begin to feel more assured?” One action step might be: “I will pray every day for a week, thanking God that He really does love and accept me.” If some in your group have not actually received Christ yet, it would be appropriate to share the gospel at this point, as noted on page 9.

Give your group members time to think of how they (individually) could take some specific action step in the next week to apply this lesson. Have them write it down in their “mini-journals” and discuss it with one or two other group members. After that, have them pray for one another about their action steps, unless you don’t think your group members are ready to pray aloud.

TELL: Finally, ask them to plan to tell someone else (outside the group) what they learned in this session. It can be a Christian or some other interested person. They dramatically improve their commitment to apply if they keep talking about it. It also causes them to start becoming a part of a spiritual multiplication process by sharing with others what they have discussed and applied from the Bible. (Remember 2 Timothy 2:2.) Have them write the “person to tell” in their “mini-journal,” share that with one or two other group members, and pray for one another. (Again, it may take a session or two for them to pray comfortably.)

When you start the group session the next week, in a low-key way, see if you can get some of your group members to share how the “applying” and “telling” went.

Well, that wasn’t so hard, was it? In the next session, use the same approach for Walk Forgiven. (See pages 10 and 11.) Also, note that in the Appendix (page 63) there is a further explanation of how to use the Session Preparation Checklists.

MULTIPLY: After several weeks, see if some in your group might like to do what you have been doing, with their own groups. Look for people who are particularly faithful to attend and are excited about the discussion, application and sharing. (People they have been “telling” week-to-week may be willing to join their new groups.)

Talk to them about how important it is for group leaders to be growing in their walks with the Lord. Persistent sin grieves God and undermines a person’s credibility with group members. It is a privilege to teach people about God, but it is also a sobering responsibility.

If they are willing to accept that responsibility, give them copies of this Small-Group Leader’s Guide, walk through it and answer questions. If possible, have them teach a part (or all) of one of your group sessions. Give suggestions afterwards to help them be ready to start a new group, while still continuing to attend your group.

Now, you are getting seriously involved in spiritual multiplication. Before long, there may be several groups meeting because of how God used you in starting your original group. Then you will be well on your way to making an impact for Christ on your campus.

How to Help People Begin to Grow Spiritually and Multiply



Help them get to know God and start to relate to Him.



4 Walks

1. **ASSURED** >> Be sure of your personal relationship with God.
2. **FORGIVEN** >> Be sure you experience God's forgiveness, so you can have a close relationship with Him.
3. **FILLED** >> Be sure you are filled with the Holy Spirit, so you can have power for living.
4. **CONTINUALLY** >> Relate to God all the time.

Help them trust God for new habits in their lives, in light of their relationships with Him and the availability of His power and wisdom.



4 Talks

1. **APPLY** the Bible (Let God Talk to You) >> Apply to your life daily what you learn from the Bible.
2. **PRAY** (Talk to God) >> Talk things through with God whenever you can.
3. **WITNESS** (Talk to Non-Christians) >> Spread the word about Christ with your non-Christian friends and acquaintances.
4. **FELLOWSHIP** (Talk to Christians) >> Form close relationships with true followers of Jesus, for support and encouragement.

Help them understand some important ways to minister to others, so they can pass on what God has given them.



4 Ministries

1. **LOVE** >> God wants us to love other people, to help meet their needs and to make an impact on their lives.
2. **WIN** (Reach) >> We can help people come to know God.
3. **BUILD** (Disciple) >> We can help people grow to be true followers of Jesus.
4. **SEND** (Involve) >> We can help followers of Jesus minister to others.

Session Preparation Checklist

(This correlates with the Session Preparation Guidelines in the Appendix.)



4 Walks >> Walk Assured

PRAY:

- Have prayed for wisdom
- Have prayed for group members

CONNECT:

- Have a good personal example to share.
- Have in mind when and how to transition to HEAR.

HEAR:

Alternate questions to ask:

- Luke 15:11-24
 1. What are some evidences of the father's love and acceptance of the prodigal son?
 2. In what ways were the son's thoughts and actions reflective of the father's love and acceptance?
 3. What are some things we can learn about relationships from this parable?
- 1 John 5:11-13
 1. What does this passage teach us about the source of eternal life
 2. What was the intended impact on the readers of this passage, and how does that help us in our relationship with God?

APPLY:

- Have in mind when and how to transition from HEAR to APPLY.
- Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. (Have an example in mind.)

TELL:

- Am committed to encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- Am looking for group members who "tell" easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.



4 Walks >> Walk Assured

Group Discussion Outline



CONNECT with needs:

- Find out how they are doing.
- Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- Start by stating: “Relationships thrive on acceptance and assurance.”
Then, surface experiences:
“Let me tell you how I have experienced this.”
“Tell us how you have experienced this.”
- Transition to the Bible by saying, “So it is in a relationship with God.”

HEAR what God says:

- Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic:
- Choices: Luke 15:11-24 (story); 1 John 5:11-13
- Commentary:
Luke 15:11-24 >> This is the story of the prodigal son. The father represents God. The rebellious son represents how we can be toward God sometimes. The father apparently was looking down the road in hopes his son would return. He had compassion, ran to meet the son and celebrated his return. That picture gives us assurance that God loves and accepts us and wants to have close fellowship with us.
1 John 5:11-13 >> These verses provide simple clarity that receiving Christ assures us that we have eternal life (with God).
- Discuss each passage using these questions, or the alternate questions to the left:
“What do you think this passage teaches us?”
“What can we learn about God or our response to God?”
“How do you think this passage relates to the topic we discussed earlier: Relationships thrive on acceptance and assurance?”

APPLY that to life:

- State the main lesson: “Be sure of your personal relationship with God.” Have them write the “lesson learned” on their “mini-journal” handout.
- Discuss:
“Why don’t we always experience assurance in our personal relationship with God?”
“What is one action you can take this week to begin to feel more assured?”
- Have them write down that specific “action to take.” Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- It may be appropriate to walk through the “Would You Like to Know God Personally?” booklet at this point.

TELL someone they know:

- Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- Have them write the name after “person to tell.” Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.

Session Preparation Checklist

(This correlates with the Session Preparation Guidelines in the Appendix.)



4 Walks >> Walk Forgiven

PRAY:

- Have prayed for wisdom
- Have prayed for group members

CONNECT:

- Have a good personal example to share.
- Have in mind when and how to transition to HEAR.

HEAR:

Alternate questions to ask:

- Luke 7:36-50
 1. What are some differences in how the religious leader viewed the sinful woman versus how Jesus viewed her?
 2. What can we learn from verses 40-47 where Jesus tells the “debt cancellation” illustration and applies it to the attitudes of the religious leader and the woman?
 3. What do you suppose was the impact on the woman when she heard that her sins had been forgiven?
- 1 John 1:9-2:2
 1. Would you agree that people commit sins? What has led you to your conclusion?
 2. What does this passage say is the solution to our sin problem? What must we do to take advantage of that solution?
- Ephesians 3:11,12
 1. In what ways does our faith in Christ impact our relationship with God?

APPLY:

- Have in mind when and how to transition from HEAR to APPLY.
- Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. (Have an example in mind.)

TELL:

- Am committed to encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- Am looking for group members who “tell” easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.

4 Walks >> Walk Forgiven

Group Discussion Outline



CONNECT with needs:

- Find out how they are doing. Ask also how their “action to take” and “person to tell” went last week.
- Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- Start by stating: “Forgiveness gives a relationship a fresh start.”
Then, surface experiences:
 “Let me tell you how I have experienced this.”
 “Tell us how you have experienced this.”
- Transition to the Bible by saying, “So it is in a relationship with God.”

HEAR what God says:

- Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic:
- Choices: Luke 7:36-50 (story); 1 John: 1:9-2:2; Ephesians 3:11,12; (Two of these passages may be enough to cover in one session.)
- Commentary:
 - Luke 7:36-50 >> This is a story about an interaction between Jesus, a sinful woman and a self-righteous religious leader. After Jesus saw the woman’s sorrow over her sins, He forgave her of her sins. This should encourage people in the group who may feel that they have done so many bad things that God could never forgive them.
 - 1 John 1:9-2:2 >> This passage clarifies that we should confess our sins to God. As we acknowledge the fact that Jesus paid the penalty for our sins, we can experience the joy of being forgiven by God.
 - Ephesians 3:11,12 >> Because of Christ (and His death for our sins), we can approach God and have a close relationship with Him.
- Discuss each passage using these questions, or the alternate questions to the left:
 - “What do you think this passage teaches us?”*
 - “What can we learn about God or our response to God?”*
 - “How do you think this passage relates to the topic we discussed earlier: Forgiveness gives a relationship a fresh start?”*

APPLY that to life:

- State the main lesson: “Be sure you experience God’s forgiveness, so you can have a close relationship with Him.” Have them write the “lesson learned” on their “mini-journal” handout.
- Discuss:
 - “Why don’t we always experience the forgiveness that God offers us?”*
 - “What is one action you can take this week to experience that forgiveness?”*
- Have them write down that specific “action to take.” Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.

TELL someone they know:

- Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- Have them write the name after “person to tell.” Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.

Session Preparation Checklist

(This correlates with the Session Preparation Guidelines in the Appendix.)



4 Walks >> Walk Filled

PRAY:

- Have prayed for wisdom
- Have prayed for group members

CONNECT:

- Have a good personal example to share.
- Have in mind when and how to transition to HEAR.

HEAR:

Alternate questions to ask:

- Ephesians 3:16-20
 1. What are some benefits that accrue to believers if they take advantage of the presence of the Spirit in their lives?
 2. If we possess such power and such a sense of how much God loves us, in what ways might that affect our daily lives?
- Ephesians 5:18-21
 1. What are some specific behaviors that result from being filled with the Spirit?
 2. In what ways do those behaviors contrast with normal human behaviors?
- John 18:15-18 together with Acts 2:14-22
 1. What types of changes do you see in Peter from John 18 to Acts 2?
 2. What seemed to be the major contributors to those changes?
- Note: Clearly the Holy Spirit provides significant help for difficult assignments in life.

APPLY:

- Have in mind when and how to transition from HEAR to APPLY.
- Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. (Have an example in mind.)

TELL:

- Am committed to encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- Am looking for group members who “tell” easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.

4 Walks >> Walk Filled

Group Discussion Outline



CONNECT with needs:

- Find out how they are doing. Ask also how their “action to take” and “person to tell” went last week.
- Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- Start by stating: “Often we need help to do a difficult assignment.”
Then, surface experiences:
“Let me tell you how I have experienced this.”
“Tell us how you have experienced this.”
- Transition to the Bible by saying, “So it is in a relationship with God.”

HEAR what God says:

- Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic:
- Choices: Ephesians 3:16-20; Ephesians 5:18-21; Contrast Peter in John 18:15-18 (story) versus Acts 2:14-22 (story); (Two of these passages may be enough to cover in one session.)
- Commentary:
Ephesians 3:16-20 >> This is a stunning statement of how much help God is willing to give us through the power of the Holy Spirit.
Ephesians 5:18-21 >> These verses give the command to be filled with the Holy Spirit and show the dramatic life-change that can result.
John 18:15-18 together with Acts 2:14-22 >> This shows a remarkable change in Peter’s courage within just a few weeks. Before being filled with the Holy Spirit, he denied Christ. After being filled, he preached with strong words to a large crowd.
- Discuss each passage using these questions, or the alternate questions to the left:
“What do you think this passage teaches us?”
“What can we learn about God or our response to God?”
“How do you think this passage relates to the topic we discussed earlier: Often we need help to do a difficult assignment?”

APPLY that to life:

- State the main lesson: “Be sure you are filled with the Holy Spirit, so you can have power for living.” Have them write the “lesson learned” on their “mini-journal” handout.
- Discuss:
“Why don’t we always seek to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit?”
“What is one action you can take this week to live in the power of the Holy Spirit?”
- Have them write down that specific “action to take.” Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- It may be appropriate to walk through the “Satisfied?” (Spirit-filled Life) booklet at this point.

TELL someone they know:

- Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- Have them write the name after “person to tell.” Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.

Session Preparation Checklist

(This correlates with the Session Preparation Guidelines in the Appendix.)



4 Walks >> Walk Continually

PRAY:

- Have prayed for wisdom
- Have prayed for group members

CONNECT:

- Have a good personal example to share.
- Have in mind when and how to transition to HEAR.

HEAR:

Alternate questions to ask:

- Philippians 4:4-9
 1. What are some specific topics of interaction with God mentioned in this passage?
 2. What seem to be some positive outcomes which result from these interactions with God?
- Psalms 16:8,9
 1. What are some positive outcomes in King David's life from "setting the Lord always before him"?
 2. What can we learn from this (and the previous) passage concerning a walk with God?

APPLY:

- Have in mind when and how to transition from HEAR to APPLY.
- Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. (Have an example in mind.)

TELL:

- Am committed to encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- Am looking for group members who "tell" easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.



4 Walks >> Walk Continually

Group Discussion Outline



CONNECT with needs:

- Find out how they are doing. Ask also how their “action to take” and “person to tell” went last week.
- Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- Start by stating: “A relationship with a person greatly benefits from frequent interaction.”

Then, surface experiences:

“Let me tell you how I have experienced this.”

“Tell us how you have experienced this.”

- Transition to the Bible by saying, “So it is in a relationship with God.”

HEAR what God says:

- Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic:
- Choices: Philippians 4:4-9; Psalm 16:8,9
- Commentary:

Philippians 4:4-9 >> These verses contain encouragement toward very frequent interaction with God: e.g. “rejoice always,” “in everything...present your requests to God.”

Psalm 16:8,9 >> This verse gives insight into the prayer life of David: “I have set the Lord continually before me.”

**In this discussion, you should be leading your group members to see how often during the day God would like to have them talk with Him.

- Discuss each passage using these questions, or the alternate questions to the left:
“What do you think this passage teaches us?”
“What can we learn about God or our response to God?”
“How do you think this passage relates to the topic we discussed earlier: A relationship with a person greatly benefits from frequent interaction?”

APPLY that to life:

- State the main lesson: “Relate to God all the time.” Have them write the “lesson learned” on their “mini-journal” handout.
- Discuss:
“Why don’t we continually relate to God?”
“What is one action you can take this week to begin to do that more often?”
- Have them write down that specific “action to take.” Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.

TELL someone they know:

- Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- Have them write the name after “person to tell.” Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.
- Tell them how they will be helped by the next four sessions. (See page 7: “4 Talks”.)

Session Preparation Checklist

(This correlates with the Session Preparation Guidelines in the Appendix.)



4 Talks >> Apply the Bible (Let God Talk to You)

PRAY:

- Have prayed for wisdom
- Have prayed for group members

CONNECT:

- Have a good personal example to share.
- Have in mind when and how to transition to HEAR.

HEAR:

Alternate questions to ask:

- James 1:22
 1. How does this verse relate to the discussion we just had (about “hearing” versus “doing”)?
- Luke 6:46-49
 1. Have you ever seen or heard of modern day examples of this (e.g. a hurricane striking an area where houses had poor foundations/structures)?
 2. What are some lessons we can learn from Jesus’ illustration?
- Acts 2:41-47
 1. What kinds of things did the new believers do?
 2. What are some evidences that they were applying the truths they were learning?
- Note: As you transition to stating the main lesson (in APPLY), point out that Jesus’ and the apostles’ teachings are available today in the Bible. Therefore, we can see from the discussions that we need to apply what we learn from the Bible.

APPLY:

- Have in mind when and how to transition from HEAR to APPLY.
- Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. (Have an example in mind.)

TELL:

- Am committed to encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- Am looking for group members who “tell” easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.

4 Talks >> Apply the Bible (Let God Talk to You)

Group Discussion Outline



CONNECT with needs:

- Find out how they are doing. Ask also how their “action to take” and “person to tell” went last week.
- Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- Start by stating: “It is one thing to hear about something; it is another to do something about it.”
Then, surface experiences:
 “Let me tell you how I have experienced this.”
 “Tell us how you have experienced this.”
- Transition to the Bible by saying, “So it is in the Christian life.”

HEAR what God says:

- Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic:
- Choices: James 1:22; Luke 6:46-49 (story); Acts 2:41-47 (story); (Two of these passages may be enough to cover in one session.)
- Commentary:
 James 1:22 >> This verse tells us clearly to apply what the Bible says.
 Luke 6:46-49 >> Jesus shows us the great value of putting into practice what He says: It gives our lives a strong, firm foundation.
 Acts 2:41-47 >> These verses show us the model of the Jerusalem church right after so many responded to Peter’s message. If you use this passage on this topic, emphasize their devotion to the apostles’ teaching versus their enjoyment of the fellowship. (You might consider saving this passage for the 4 Talks >> Fellowship session.)
- Discuss each passage using these questions, or the alternate questions to the left:
 “What do you think this passage teaches us?”
 “What can we learn about God or our response to God?”
 “How do you think this passage relates to the topic we discussed earlier: It is one thing to hear about something; it is another to do something about it?”

APPLY that to life:

- State the main lesson: “Apply to your life daily what you learn from the Bible.” Have them write the “lesson learned” on their “mini-journal” handout.
- Discuss:
 “Why don’t we always apply what we learn from the Bible?”
 “What is one action you can take this week to start applying the Bible to everyday life?”
- Have them write down that specific “action to take.” Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.

TELL someone they know:

- Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- Have them write the name after “person to tell.” Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.

Session Preparation Checklist

(This correlates with the Session Preparation Guidelines in the Appendix.)



4 Talks >> Pray (Talk to God)

PRAY:

- Have prayed for wisdom
- Have prayed for group members

CONNECT:

- Have a good personal example to share.
- Have in mind when and how to transition to HEAR.

HEAR:

Alternate questions to ask:

- 1 Kings 3:5-14
 1. What do you think Solomon's example teaches us about talking with God?
 2. How does this compare or contrast with what you normally think of as "praying"?
- Nehemiah 1:4-11
 1. What can we learn from Nehemiah in terms of sharing our concerns with the Lord?
 2. How does this compare with the discussion we had earlier about talking things through with a friend?

APPLY:

- Have in mind when and how to transition from HEAR to APPLY.
- Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. (Have an example in mind.)

TELL:

- Am committed to encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- Am looking for group members who "tell" easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.



4 Talks >> Pray (Talk to God)

Group Discussion Outline



CONNECT with needs:

- Find out how they are doing. Ask also how their “action to take” and “person to tell” went last week.
- Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- Start by stating: “Most people like to ‘talk things through’ with a friend.”
Then, surface experiences:
 “Let me tell you how I have experienced this.”
 “Tell us how you have experienced this.”
- Transition to the Bible by saying, “So it is in the Christian life.”

HEAR what God says:

- Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic:
- Choices: 1 Kings 3:5-14 (story); Nehemiah 1:4-11 (story)
- Commentary:
 1 Kings 3:5-14 >> King Solomon has a conversation with God (via a dream). In this interaction we see a dialogue - - sort of “talking about things.” It conveys how prayer can be viewed as a conversation with God.
 Nehemiah 1:4-11 >> This represents the more normal prayer experience, where Nehemiah doesn’t hear God speak audibly. Yet, it also shows how Nehemiah “talks things through” with God, pleading his case on a particular concern.
- Discuss each passage using these questions, or the alternate questions to the left:
 “What do you think this passage teaches us?”
 “What can we learn about God or our response to God?”
 “How do you think this passage relates to the topic we discussed earlier: Most people like to ‘talk things through’ with a friend?”

APPLY that to life:

- State the main lesson: “Talk things through with God whenever you can.” Have them write the “lesson learned” on their “mini-journal” handout.
- Discuss:
 “Why don’t we tend to talk things through with God?”
 “What is one action you can take this week to do that more?”
- Have them write down that specific “action to take.” Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.

TELL someone they know:

- Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- Have them write the name after “person to tell.” Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.

Session Preparation Checklist

(This correlates with the Session Preparation Guidelines in the Appendix.)



4 Talks >> Witness (Talk to Non-Christians)

PRAY:

- Have prayed for wisdom
- Have prayed for group members

CONNECT:

- Have a good personal example to share.
- Have in mind when and how to transition to HEAR.

HEAR:

Alternate questions to ask:

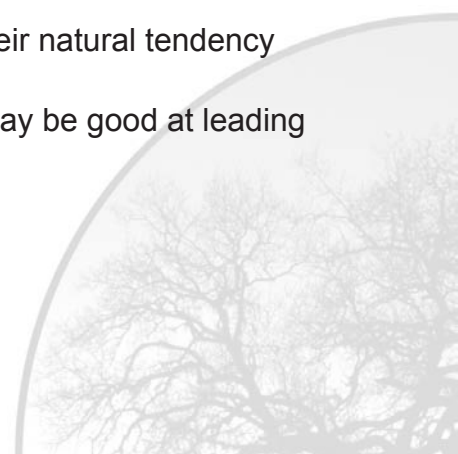
- Matthew 28:18-20
 1. What did Jesus command His disciples to do?
 2. Why do you think Jesus considered this important to tell His disciples?
 3. Why do you think it is important for us to do these same things today?
- John 4:19-41
 1. Do you think the woman at the well had concluded that Jesus was an important person to listen to? Why?
 2. What were the results of this one woman's "witness"?
- Acts 4:1-13
 1. What would you guess were the risks to Peter and John if they "witnessed about Christ"?
 2. Despite these risks, what were some evidences of their clarity of message and courage in sharing their faith?

APPLY:

- Have in mind when and how to transition from HEAR to APPLY.
- Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. (Have an example in mind.)

TELL:

- Am committed to encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- Am looking for group members who "tell" easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.



4 Talks >> Witness (Talk to Non-Christians)

Group Discussion Outline



CONNECT with needs:

- Find out how they are doing. Ask also how their “action to take” and “person to tell” went last week.
- Pray for wisdom from God during the session.
- Start by stating: “It is normal for word to spread when people who know about a subject tell others.”

Then, surface experiences:

“Let me tell you how I have experienced this.”

“Tell us how you have experienced this.”

- Transition to the Bible by saying, “So it is in the Christian life.”

HEAR what God says:

- Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic:
- Choices: Matthew 28:18-20; John 4:19-41 (story); Acts 4:1-13 (story); (Two of these passages may be enough to cover in one session.)
- Commentary:

Matthew 28:18-20 >> Jesus exhorts us to pass the gospel on to others, as widely as possible. Knowing the message of Jesus Christ should motivate us to share it with others.

John 4:19-41 >> These verses show us the great impact of one woman’s witness to her entire town.

Acts 4:1-13 >> This passage documents how Peter stood up to the religious leaders in Jerusalem and proclaimed that salvation is found in Christ alone. The leaders took note of his courage.

- Discuss each passage using these questions, or the alternate questions to the left:
“What do you think this passage teaches us?”
“What can we learn about God or our response to God?”
“How do you think this passage relates to the topic we discussed earlier: It is normal for word to spread when people who know about a subject tell others?”

APPLY that to life:

- State the main lesson: “Spread the word about Christ with your non-Christian friends and acquaintances.” Have them write the “lesson learned” on their “mini-journal” handout.
- Discuss:
“What are some barriers to talking about Christ with non-Christians?”
“What is one action you can take this week to have a spiritual conversation with someone who doesn’t know Christ?”
- Have them write down that specific “action to take.” Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.

TELL someone they know:

- Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- Have them write the name after “person to tell.” Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.

Session Preparation Checklist

(This correlates with the Session Preparation Guidelines in the Appendix.)



4 Talks >> Fellowship (Talk to Christians)

PRAY:

- Have prayed for wisdom
- Have prayed for group members

CONNECT:

- Have a good personal example to share.
- Have in mind when and how to transition to HEAR.

HEAR:

Alternate questions to ask:

- Hebrews 10:24,25
 1. What are some benefits to getting together with other believers?
 2. How have you experienced these benefits in a Christian context?
[Note: This ties into the CONNECT discussion on friends providing support and encouragement.]
- Acts 2:42-47
 1. What are some evidences in this passage that the new believers were relating to one another often and well?
- Acts 1:12-15
 1. What did the believers do shortly after Jesus ascended into heaven?
 2. Why do you suppose they met together?
- Note: Make the point that your “Essentials” group meets regularly, in part, to provide support and encouragement for your group members. You might even want to talk about how the group is doing.

APPLY:

- Have in mind when and how to transition from HEAR to APPLY.
- Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. (Have an example in mind.)

TELL:

- Am committed to encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- Am looking for group members who “tell” easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.

4 Talks >> Fellowship (Talk to Christians)

Group Discussion Outline



CONNECT with needs:

- Find out how they are doing. Ask also how their “action to take” and “person to tell” went last week.
- Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- Start by stating: “Relationships with friends provide support and encouragement.”
Then, surface experiences:
 “Let me tell you how I have experienced this.”
 “Tell us how you have experienced this.”
- Transition to the Bible by saying, “So it is in the Christian life.”

HEAR what God says:

- Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic:
- Choices: Hebrews 10:24,25; Acts 2:42-47 (story); Acts 1:12-15 (story); (Two of these passages may be enough to cover in one session.)
- Commentary:
 - Hebrews 10:24,25 >> These verses ask us, as Christians, to get together often to encourage one another.
 - Acts 2:42-47 >> This illustrates the daily close fellowship Christians enjoyed after coming to Christ. They are very loving and committed to one another, and enjoy each other’s company. (You may have used this three sessions ago in 4 Talks >> Apply The Bible.)
 - Acts 1:12-15 >> This records that right after Jesus ascended into heaven, the eleven disciples, and many others, met together frequently for prayer and mutual encouragement.
- Discuss each passage using these questions, or the alternate questions to the left:
 - “What do you think this passage teaches us?”*
 - “What can we learn about God or our response to God?”*
 - “How do you think this passage relates to the topic we discussed earlier: Relationships with friends provide support and encouragement?”*

APPLY that to life:

- State the main lesson: “Form close relationships with true followers of Jesus, for support and encouragement.” Have them write the “lesson learned” on their “mini-journal” handout.
- Discuss:
 - “What can keep us from forming close relationships with Christians?”*
 - “What is one action you can take this week to begin to overcome those barriers?”*
- Have them write down that specific “action to take.” Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.

TELL someone they know:

- Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- Have them write the name after “person to tell.” Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.
- Tell them how they will be helped by the next four sessions. (See page 7: “4 Ministries”.)

Session Preparation Checklist

(This correlates with the Session Preparation Guidelines in the Appendix.)



4 Ministries >> Love

PRAY:

- Have prayed for wisdom
- Have prayed for group members

CONNECT:

- Have a good personal example to share.
- Have in mind when and how to transition to HEAR.

HEAR:

Alternate questions to ask:

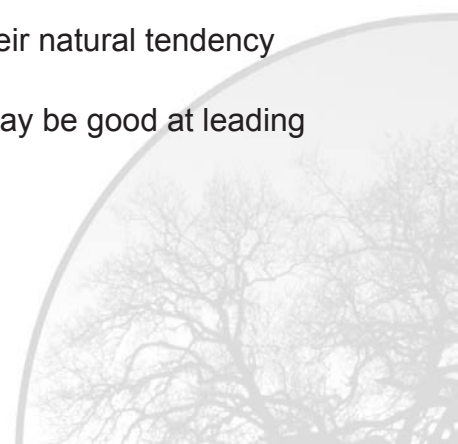
- John 13:34,35
 1. In what ways does loving fellow Christians communicate to other people that we are Christ's disciples?
- Luke 10:25-37
 1. What are some lessons from this passage on what it means to "love your neighbor"?
 2. How does that tie to our previous discussion and "people who love us make an impact on our lives"?
- 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
 1. Give some examples of how you have received love in the specific, unselfish ways described in this passage.
 2. How does this description of true love contrast with what the world defines as love?

APPLY:

- Have in mind when and how to transition from HEAR to APPLY.
- Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. (Have an example in mind.)

TELL:

- Am committed to encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- Am looking for group members who "tell" easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.



4 Ministries >> Love

Group Discussion Outline



CONNECT with needs:

- Find out how they are doing. Ask also how their “action to take” and “person to tell” went last week.
- Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- Start by stating: “People who love us make an impact on our lives.”
Then, surface experiences:
 “Let me tell you how I have experienced this.”
 “Tell us how you have experienced this.”
- Transition to the Bible by saying, “If we want to minister to people, we must start by loving them.”

HEAR what God says:

- Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic:
- Choices: John 13:34,35; Luke 10:25-37 (story); 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (In verse 8, you only need to read the first sentence: “Love never fails.”); (Two of these passages may be enough to cover in one session.)
- Commentary:
 John 13:34,35 >> These verses command us to love. People will know we are followers of Christ by how we love others.
 Luke 10:25-37 >> The parable of the Good Samaritan is a story about loving a stranger. After being beaten and robbed, a man is left for dead along a road. A priest and a religious leader come across the man, but do not stop to help. Then, a Samaritan sees the man, takes him to an inn and pays for his care. During the time of Jesus, a Samaritan was often looked down upon and was not well accepted. With this parable, Jesus made the point that love should meet needs and not discriminate.
 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 >> These verses give us a definition of love. If we ever need help knowing how to love another person, this passage shows us how.
- Discuss each passage using these questions, or the alternate questions to the left:
 “What do you think this passage teaches us about loving others?”
 “How do you think this passage relates to the topic we discussed earlier: People who love us make an impact on our lives?”

APPLY that to life:

- State the main lesson: “God wants us to love other people to help meet their needs and to make an impact on their lives.” Have them write the “lesson learned” on their “mini-journal” handout.
- Discuss:
 “What are some things that keep us from loving other people?”
 “What is one action you can take this week to be loving and kind to someone?”
- Have them write down that specific “action to take.” Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.

TELL someone they know:

- Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- Have them write the name after “person to tell.” Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.

Session Preparation Checklist

(This correlates with the Session Preparation Guidelines in the Appendix.)



4 Ministries >> Win (Reach)

PRAY:

- Have prayed for wisdom
- Have prayed for group members

CONNECT:

- Have a good personal example to share.
- Have in mind when and how to transition to HEAR.

HEAR:

Alternate questions to ask:

- Acts 1:8
 1. [Note: Mention to your group that Acts 1:8 occurs just before Jesus departs from His disciples and ascends to heaven.]
 2. In light of that, what seemed to be most on Jesus' mind to leave as a final impression with His disciples?
- Matthew 4:18-22
 1. What kinds of thought and daily activities do you suppose occupied the minds of fisherman like Peter and Andrew?
 2. What are some comparisons between that and what Jesus meant for them to think and act like as "fishers of men"?
- Note: The Acts 1:8 and Matthew 4:18-22 passages make clear that we can and should help people come to know God.
- Matthew 5:14-16
 1. In what ways is "light" a good metaphor for a Christian's role in winning others to Christ?

APPLY:

- Have in mind when and how to transition from HEAR to APPLY.
- Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. (Have an example in mind.)

TELL:

- Am committed to encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- Am looking for group members who "tell" easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.

4 Ministries >> Win (Reach)

Group Discussion Outline



CONNECT with needs:

- Find out how they are doing. Ask also how their “action to take” and “person to tell” went last week.
- Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- Start by stating: “People need to know God personally.”
Then, surface experiences:
 “Let me tell you how I have experienced this.” (Perhaps give your testimony.)
 “Tell us how you have experienced this.”
- Transition to the Bible by saying, “God uses people to show others how to know him personally.”

HEAR what God says:

- Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic:
- Choices: Acts 1:8; Matthew 4:18-22 (story); Matthew 5:14-16; (Two of these passages may be enough to cover in one session.)
- Commentary:
Acts 1:8 >> In this verse, Jesus sent the apostles as witnesses throughout the land. However, they were not to begin until they were equipped with the power of the Holy Spirit. This also applies to us, as we are commanded to go and to tell others about Jesus Christ.
Matthew 4:18-22 >> Jesus called his first disciples while they were out fishing. He said that if they followed Him, He would make them “fishers of men.” Evangelism was at the heart of Jesus’ ministry.
Matthew 5:14-16 >> Once we truly accept Christ into our hearts, we cannot keep our faith hidden. God designed and called us to be a light so people will see Christ through us.
- Discuss each passage using these questions, or the alternate questions to the left:
 “What do you think this passage teaches us about reaching others for Christ?”
 “How do you think this passage relates to the topic we discussed earlier: People need to know God personally (and whether we can help in that)?”

APPLY that to life:

- State the main lesson: “We can help people come to know God.” Have them write the “lesson learned” on their “mini-journal” handout.
- Discuss:
 “What are some things that keep us from talking about Christ?”
 “What is one action you can take this week to share Christ with someone who doesn’t know Him?”
- Have them write down that specific “action to take.” Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.

TELL someone they know:

- Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- Have them write the name after “person to tell.” Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.

Session Preparation Checklist

(This correlates with the Session Preparation Guidelines in the Appendix.)



4 Ministries >> Build (Disciple)

PRAY:

- Have prayed for wisdom
- Have prayed for group members

CONNECT:

- Have a good personal example to share.
- Have in mind when and how to transition to HEAR.

HEAR:

Alternate questions to ask:

- 1 Thessalonians 2:7-13
 1. What are some ways to describe the efforts Paul made to build into the lives of Christians in Thessalonica? [Note: Look for lifestyle as well as content.]
 2. What are some evidences of Paul's commitment and intentionality?
- 2 Timothy 4:2
 1. Note: Build on the discussion of the second question above. Say, "Having seen Paul's model of ministry, now let's look at his exhortation to minister."
 2. What further zeal and intentionality do you see in this verse?
 3. What lessons can we learn from these two passages?

APPLY:

- Have in mind when and how to transition from HEAR to APPLY.
- Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. (Have an example in mind.)

TELL:

- Am committed to encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- Am looking for group members who "tell" easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.



4 Ministries >> Build (Disciple)

Group Discussion Outline



CONNECT with needs:

- Find out how they are doing. Ask also how their “action to take” and “person to tell” went last week.
- Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- Start by stating: “People need to grow in their relationship with God.”
Then, surface experiences:
“Let me tell you how I have experienced this.”
“Tell us how you have experienced this.”
- Transition to the Bible by saying, “God uses people to help Christians grow in their relationships with God.”

HEAR what God says:

- Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic:
- Choices: 1 Thessalonians 2:7-13 (story); 2 Timothy 4:2
- Commentary:
1 Thessalonians 2:7-13 >> In this passage, Paul shares about his relationship with the church in Thessalonica. He nurtured and cared for them, as a parent would for a child. He also says that he shared his life with them. Discipleship happens best as people experience life together.
2 Timothy 4:2 >> We are to be prepared to share the word of God with others. Whether through encouragement or correction, we are to be ready to help people grow spiritually.
- Discuss each passage using these questions, or the alternate questions to the left:
“What do you think this passage teaches us about discipleship?”
“How do you think this passage relates to the topic we discussed earlier: People need to grow in their relationships with God (and whether we can help in that)?”

APPLY that to life:

- State the main lesson: “We can help people grow to be true followers of Jesus.” Have them write the “lesson learned” on their “mini-journal” handout.
- Discuss:
“What are some things that keep us from growing in our relationship with God?”
“What is one action you can take this week to help another person grow in his or her relationship with God?”
- Have them write down that specific “action to take.” Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.

TELL someone they know:

- Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- Have them write the name after “person to tell.” Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.

Session Preparation Checklist

(This correlates with the Session Preparation Guidelines in the Appendix.)



4 Ministries >> Send (Involve)

PRAY:

- Have prayed for wisdom
- Have prayed for group members

CONNECT:

- Have a good personal example to share.
- Have in mind when and how to transition to HEAR.

HEAR:

Alternate questions to ask:

- Luke 10:1,2
 1. How would you describe the process Jesus used to minister? [Involving sending people.]
- Acts 11:19-26
 1. What seemed to motivate the church at Jerusalem to send Barnabas to Antioch?
 2. What were the things that apparently motivated Barnabas to travel some distance to ask for Saul's help?
- Note: Draw the conclusion from both passages that it is normal for additional people to become involved in ministry as the needs and opportunities arise?
- 2 Timothy 2:2
 1. How would you describe the process going on here?
 2. What words might describe Paul's and Timothy's thoughts and feelings as they saw spiritual multiplication unfold?
- Note: Clearly Christ intends for His followers to involve others in ministry.

APPLY:

- Have in mind when and how to transition from HEAR to APPLY.
- Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. (Have an example in mind.)

TELL:

- Am committed to encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- Am looking for group members who "tell" easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.

4 Ministries >> Send (Involve)

Group Discussion Outline



CONNECT with needs:

- Find out how they are doing. Ask also how their “action to take” and “person to tell” went last week.
- Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- Start by stating: “It can be rewarding to be involved in ministering to people.”
Then, surface experiences:
“Let me tell you how I have experienced this.”
“Tell us how you have experienced this or have a desire to.”
- Transition to the Bible by saying, “Most often God uses people to motivate and equip Christians to become involved in ministry.”

HEAR what God says:

- Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic:
- Choices: Luke 10:1,2 (story); Acts 11:19-26 (story); 2 Timothy 2:2; (Two of these passages may be enough to cover in one session.)
- Commentary:
Luke 10:1,2 >> During the time of Jesus’ ministry, He spread more of His message by sending people into different areas. In these verses, Jesus sent more than seventy people to go before him to the different towns to share the gospel.
Acts 11:19-26 >> Followers of Christ were scattered by persecution and spread the gospel. Barnabas, an apostle of Jesus Christ, visited the church in Antioch and was encouraged by their growth. He then sought out Paul, and together they taught great numbers of people. This story illustrates how Barnabas influenced Paul to become involved with ministry.
2 Timothy 2:2 >> This is a picture of spiritual multiplication. Our responsibility is to share with others what we are learning and they, in turn, pass it on.
- Discuss each passage using these questions, or the alternate questions to the left:
“What do you think this passage teaches us about becoming involved in ministering to others?”
“How do you think this passage relates to the topic we discussed earlier: It can be rewarding to be involved in ministering to people?”

APPLY that to life:

- State the main lesson: “We can help followers of Jesus minister to others.” Have them write the “lesson learned” on their “mini-journal” handout.
- Discuss:
“What are some things that keep people from becoming involved in ministering to others?”
“What is one action you can take this week to encourage a Christian to minister to others?”
- Have them write down that specific “action to take.” Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.

TELL someone they know:

- Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- Have them write the name after “person to tell.” Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.
- Tell them how they will be helped by the next four sessions, if you choose to go on to Part 2.



4 >>

Walks Talks Ministries

Instructions > >

This and the following page contain three 1/2 page handouts you can use during the sessions of the 4 Walks, 4 Talks and 4 Ministries respectively. They allow each group member to write down specific action steps, etc. for each group session. It is sort of a mini-journal.

You need to have enough copies printed (preferably on cardstock) of the appropriate 1/2 page handout before the "4 Walks >> Walk Assured," "4 Talks >> Apply the Bible" and "4 Ministries >> Love" sessions.



Begin to know God and
how to relate to Him

4 Walks



Walk Assured

Lesson Learned: _____

Action to take: _____

Person to Tell: _____



Walk Forgiveness

Lesson Learned: _____

Action to take: _____

Person to Tell: _____



Walk Filled

Lesson Learned: _____

Action to take: _____

Person to Tell: _____



Walk Continually

Lesson Learned: _____

Action to take: _____

Person to Tell: _____

Start some new habits to help you live the Christian life

4 Talks

Apply the Bible (Let God Talk to You)

Lesson Learned: _____
Action to take: _____
Person to Tell: _____

Pray (Talk to God)

Lesson Learned: _____
Action to take: _____
Person to Tell: _____

Witness (Talk to Non-Christians)

Lesson Learned: _____
Action to take: _____
Person to Tell: _____

Fellowship (Talk to Christians)

Lesson Learned: _____
Action to take: _____
Person to Tell: _____

Understand some important ways to minister to others

4 Ministries

Love

Lesson Learned: _____
Action to take: _____
Person to Tell: _____

Win (Reach)

Lesson Learned: _____
Action to take: _____
Person to Tell: _____

Build (Disciple)

Lesson Learned: _____
Action to take: _____
Person to Tell: _____

Send (Involve)

Lesson Learned: _____
Action to take: _____
Person to Tell: _____

