

GETTING STARTED GUIDE

PRINCIPLES

Jesus said, "Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." (Matthew 18:20) That's a powerful promise we should all take advantage of. But when we gather together as a group, how should we spend your time? The 3/3's format is a helpful approach that divides your time together into three equal parts. This can be used with both non-Christians and fellow disciples as a way to encourage progress in their spiritual journey one step at a time, no matter where each person is.

DISCUSS & DISCOVER

Focus on the Bible. Trust the Holy Spirit to help each person discover the meaning of Scripture. Lead through asking questions rather than teaching, explaining, or dominating. Try to make sure everyone participates even if you have to call on individuals, and don't allow any one person to dominate.

BIAS TOWARD ACTION

3/3's groups are action-oriented, not just knowledge-based. Avoid generic and principle-based goals, as these are more difficult to act upon (for example, "I will be more loving"). Instead, make practical and specific commitments each meeting and review them the next time you meet (for example, "I will tuck my children in each night and pray with them and bless them before bed"). And never skip or short change your Look Back and Look Ahead time—give all three parts equal time when you meet.

STICK TO THE PASSAGE

Avoid bringing in other passages. Those not familiar with the Bible will feel uncomfortable if you bounce around too much. Use the question, "How do you get that from this passage?" to segue back to the passage when the group expresses opinions or tries to bring in other passages.

MULTIPLYING NEW GROUPS

Become fishers of men by training others to start groups. Have one group that is your continuing primary spiritual community. It can meet on your "turf." At all times try to also be modeling for or assisting someone else on a temporary basis to help initiate a new group. This should be done on their "turf." Continue to meet with new leaders until they are ready to lead on their own. Train them to do the same for others. Keep everyone connected for ongoing training and support. See 2 Timothy 2:2.

KEEP GROUPS SMALL

Keep your group and any new groups small (about 4-12 people) rather than adding more people to big groups. Try to start groups around natural relationships of people who already know each other, and meet where they already gather. With a larger group, divide into sub-groups of two or three for some of the parts to get everyone talking if needed (for example, during Care, Check-in, Practice).

EVERYONE IS A POTENTIAL LEADER

View everyone as a potential leader, both before and after they trust Jesus. Leaders can be people without formal schooling, come from a variety of backgrounds, and can be any age—even young children can lead. Pass facilitation responsibility around the group each time so that others besides you are trained and can train others to start groups as well.

STORY SETS

Your group may need more than one meeting for some of these passages. There is no need to rush through any list. The first three Discovery sets are especially for seekers, and the Discipleship sets are appropriate for people who are already Christians but have not been in this type of group before.

DISCOVERY SERIES 1: STORIES OF HOPE

(1) Hope for the sinner: Luke 18:9-14; (2) Hope for the poor: Luke 12:13-34; (3) Hope for the runaway: Luke 15:11-32; (4) Hope for the lost: Luke 19:1-10; (5) Hope for the grieving: John 11:1-44; (6) Hope for the seeker: John 3:1-21

DISCOVERY SERIES 2: SIGNS OF JOHN

(1) Turning of water into wine: John 2:1-12; (2) Healing of the royal official's son: John 4:46-54; (3) Healing of the paralytic: John 5:1-17; (4) Feeding of the five thousand: John 6:1-14; (5) Walking on water: John 6:15-25; (6) Healing of the man born blind: John 9:1-41; (7) Raising Lazarus from the dead: John 11:1-46

DISCOVERY SERIES 3: CREATION TO CHRIST

(1) God created the world: Genesis 1:1-27; (2) Creation of man: Genesis 2:4-24; (3) First sin & judgment: Genesis 3:1-13; (4) Judgment of a sinful world: Genesis 3:14-24; (5) Flood: Genesis 6:1-9:17; (6) God's promise to Abram: Genesis 12:1-8; 15:1-6; (7) Abraham offers Isaac: Genesis 22:1-19; (8) Promise of Passover: Exodus 12:1-28; (9) Ten Commandments: Exodus 20:1-21; (10) Sacrificial system: Leviticus 4:1-35; (11) Foreshadow of the coming promise: Isaiah 53; (12) Birth of Jesus: Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-20; (13) Jesus is baptized: Matthew 3; John 1:29-34; (14) Temptation of Christ: Matthew 4:1-11; (15) Woman at the well: John 4:1-26, 39-42; (16) Jesus forgives & heals: Luke 5:17-26; (17) Jesus calms the storm: Mark 4:35-41; (18) Jesus casts out evil spirits: Mark 5:1-20; (19) Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead: John 11:1-44; (20) The Lord's supper: Matthew 26:26-30; (21) Jesus betrayed & condemned: John 18:1-19:16; (22) Jesus is crucified: Luke 23:32-56; (23) Jesus conquers death: Luke 24:1-35; (24) Jesus appears & ascends: Luke 24:36-53; (25) Nicodemus: John 3:1-21 & 36

SHORT-TERM DISCIPLESHIP: COMMANDS OF CHRIST

(1) Repent & believe: Matthew 4:17; Luke 7:36-50; Romans 3:23, 6:23, 10:9-10; (2) Be baptized: Matthew 28:19; Acts 8:26-39; Romans 6:3-4; Matthew 3:13-16; Acts 2:38; (3) Pray: Matthew 6:5-15; Luke 10:2; (4) Go ... make disciples: Matthew 28:18-20; John 4:4-42; Luke 10:1-11; (5) Love: Matthew 22:37-39; Luke 10:25-37; John 15:13; 1 Corinthians 13; John 13:34-35; Matthew 22:37-39; John 14:15, 21:17; (6) Worship through perseverance: Matthew 4:10; Acts 16:25-34; (7) Lord's supper: Luke 22:7-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29; Acts 2:42; (8) Give: Matthew 6:1-4; Mark 12:41-44; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7; Acts 4:34-35; (9) Gather: Hebrews 10:24-25; Acts 2:36-44, 5:42, 17:5-7, 18:7, 19:9, 20:20; Romans 16:1-5; 1 Corinthians 16:19; Colossians 4:15; Philemon 1:1-2; 1 Corinthians 10:31

LONG-TERM DISCIPLESHIP

After going through the Commands of Christ, continue using the 3/3's format by slowly reading through Mark, story by story. Beyond this, your group may choose what you would like to read next.





LOOK UP

2

NEW LESSON

Using the story sets on the other side, choose a new passage of Scripture to read and discuss.

Before reading and discussing, ask God in prayer to be your teacher.

Read this week's passage twice (preferably from two different versions of the Bible if available).

Discover and discuss together, asking these questions:

1. Is there anything you don't understand?
2. What do you like or not like in the passage?
3. What does this passage teach us about God?
4. What does this passage teach us about people?
5. What does this passage teach us about the life God wants for us?



LOOK BACK

1

CARE

What are you thankful for at the moment?
Are you worried about anything?
Do you or anyone you know have any needs we can help meet?
Pray for each other based on what you've discussed.

WORSHIP

Do one or more of the following together:

- Sing songs of praise to God
- Read a Psalm
- Take up a collection based on any needs discussed earlier
- Some other form of worship

CHECK-IN*

How did it go doing the things you committed to last time?
Did you apply what you learned in your life?
Did you share or train anyone based on what you are learning?
If you are having trouble, how can we help?

VISION

Share verses from Scripture that remind the group of one of the following: God's love for us, loving God, loving our neighbors, sharing Jesus with others, starting a new group, or helping others to do the same.

**If this is your first meeting, skip the Check-in until your second meeting.*

LOOK AHEAD



SET GOALS

Individually, take a few minutes to silently pray about these questions, asking for the Holy Spirit's guidance. Write your answers down:

6. If this is God speaking to me in the passage, what is he asking me to do? Set a specific goal to apply what you are learning before next time.
7. Who will I train or share this passage with? Or, who does God want me to share my testimony and/or the gospel with this week? Write down their names and times to try to connect.

Share your goals with the group. Write each other's goals down so you can pray for the others this week and can check in next time.

PRACTICE

In groups of two or three, practice what you have committed to do in your goals. (For example, role-play a difficult conversation or facing a temptation, practice re-telling today's passage, practice sharing your testimony, or practice giving a gospel presentation.)

PRAYER

Encourage and pray for each other based on the goals you have set.

3



3/3'S GROUP FORMAT