

April 16, 2017 – Leader Coaching

[This page is to help you sharpen your skills as a DiscipleGroup Leader. Each week we will include concepts, challenges, and resources designed to assist you as you lead and shepherd your group and grow as a disciple yourself. Also, we have added comments (enclosed in brackets []) on the Leader Guide for you.]

Abiding

[grow as a disciple yourself]

- This is the third and final story in our series about people’s reaction when they saw Jesus after the resurrection. Review these three stories in your quiet time and imagine how it felt to be one of these four people who saw and spoke personally with Jesus after the resurrection.

Leading

[learn to facilitate your group more effectively]

- These last three stories are good to review. They are not too long and they all have the same theme: encountering the resurrected Lord. Perhaps at the end of your session this week you might ask a couple of questions about the three stories.
- Ask volunteers to retell them and ask which of the three was a favorite story.

Shepherding

[know the sheep, feed the sheep, lead the sheep, protect the sheep]

- Is doubting a sin? As you shepherd your group, encourage them to ask questions. Thomas was one of the boldest disciples. He was not afraid to speak what was on his mind.
- Always encourage your folks to be honest about their thoughts. Also, do not be afraid to say “I don’t know the answer to your question. Let’s all make a note and commit to research it this week and come with some answers.” Don’t forget to discuss the answers next week! Remember, we want to see GROWTH!

Resources:

- Do an internet search on Thomas to see summaries about him and the interesting traditions about his life.
- Look at biblegateway.com to see how different Bible versions translated this passage

April 16, 2017 – Jesus Appears to Thomas

Open in Prayer

Welcome/Introductions

[if there are new people in your group, give brief introductions of people they don't know]

Remind group of DiscipleGroup Guidelines

Ask these DiscipleMaker Questions

- What has changed in your life because of what you learned last week?
- Has God placed someone in your life outside this group that you need to invest in?
- How do you think God wants you to do this?

Ask a “hook question” to get the group talking

- Tell about a time when someone told you something and you were sure it was not true.

Share background for the story

Last week we looked at Mary Magdalene and this story about Thomas comes immediately after that in the Gospel of John.

Tell the story – John 20:19-31 - This week's story is about Jesus' resurrection appearance to Thomas from the Gospel of John.

[Tell the story with your Bible open on your lap to the passage.]

Rebuild the story

[Group members tell the story together, one piece at a time, based on what they remember.]

Read the story out loud - Read **John 20:19-31** from the Bible

[The Scripture passage will, obviously, have many more details. Were there any important details left out of the telling or retelling that you discover in the Scripture?]

Discuss these questions:

1. What do you learn about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit?
2. What do you learn about the characters in the story?
3. What stood out to you in this story?
4. What do you learn about yourself?
5. How will this story be used in your life and with others?

Ask someone to retell the story

Assign next week's passage – *Acts 3:1-10 – A Crippled Man is Healed*

Close in Prayer

[Co-leader or apprentice say a closing prayer.]