

September 3, 2017- Disciplemaking in New Areas

Open in Prayer

Welcome/Introductions

[If there are new people in your group, give brief introductions.]

Remind the group of DiscipleGroup Guidelines

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 going.

- Talk about a dream that you had that seemed so real that when you woke up it affected what you did the next day.

Share background for the story.

Last week we saw how Paul and Barnabas reported their mission work to the church in Jerusalem and, we saw the conflict between Paul and Barnabas. This week we will see God’s leading of Paul and his new partner, Silas, as they disciple and evangelize new areas.

Tell the story – Acts 16:1-15. This week’s story is about Paul and Silas and their mission work in Acts 16.

[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 Acts 16:1-15 from the Bible.

[The scripture may have 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 in this story?
2. What do you learn about the characters in the story?
3. What stood out to you in this story?
4. There are two parts of this story that talk about families. How can you apply this story to disciple making in your own family?
5. What do you learn about yourself?
6. How will this story be used in your life and with others?

Ask someone to retell the story.

Assign next week’s passage. Acts 16:16-34. The Philippian Jailor. Note: If you have already covered this story in your group you may go on to the next story.

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September 3, 2017-Disciplemaking in New Areas – 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.]

Abiding

[grow as a disciple yourself]

- There are two types of ministry in this story. Paul and Silas go back to some of the churches that Paul and Barnabas had started and they confirmed and encouraged the brothers. Then, led by the Holy Spirit, they took the Gospel to new areas. The pattern for us as believers is that we are to be encouraging our brothers and sisters in the Lord and we are also to be sharing the Gospel with unbelievers. Your leadership of a DiscipleGroup is an example of encouraging and mentoring believers. How are you at evangelism? Are you helping your group pray for and reach out to the lost?

Leading

[learn to facilitate your group more effectively]

- Are you reading the guidelines each week? Some groups tend to forget, but if you want your ministry to be reproducible then you need to stay with the model and help the group stay with the guidelines. They help protect the group and keep everyone involved.

Shepherding

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

- A significant question for those of us in the discipling business is “How much time do we spend discipling believers versus the amount of time we spend reaching the lost?” Of course, God has gifted different believers in different ways. But we all must be making disciples and sharing the Gospel as we go about our lives. One thing we must realize is that taking another believer with us as we make a visit to a lost person is really a model of discipling.

Resources:

- Many in our church are studying the Evangelism Explosion program for sharing your faith. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8KgOjrDDPck> is an excellent example of a person sharing her faith with a friend using the Evangelism Explosion model. Are the people in your DiscipleGroup equipped to share their faith?