FOLLOWING JESUS TOGETHER

BOOK 1

FOLLOWING JESUS TOGETHER

This story-set follows the story of the disciples as they meet Jesus, follow Him, get to know Him, and begin to grow. We will follow Jesus with them in chronological order, although we will not have time to tell all the stories about Jesus and His disciples in this series, we have chosen stories from all four of the Gospels in the order that they occurred. Jesus took these disciples on a journey together so they could become like Him and be His sent ones ("apostles") to the world. If you face each situation they faced, and respond like they did, you will be Jesus' disciple indeed and in deed.
Remember, for thousands of years God's people have used *storytelling*—or the oral tradition of telling the Word of God—to better remember and understand the Bible. The benefit of telling a story is that people understand the big picture and can pass it on in a clearer way. In this guide, we will ask you or someone in your group to actually tell the story aloud, and then have someone else in the group retell it in their own words. Statistics tell us that the majority of us actually learn better by retelling a story. As the story is told and retold, you will be amazed to see the number of people in our group who will be able to better understand and apply the heart of the story.
Storytelling draws people deeper into the Word to discover what it ***actually says*** rather than what we ***want it to say***. We will ask one set of questions to reinforce the facts of the story and another set to discover God's heart behind the story.
Remember, equally important to telling the story is asking good questions in order to hear where people are in their journey with God.
We have always told stories in our small groups. The problem has been that the stories were focused more on ourselves than on God's Word. Retelling the story may feel a bit awkward at first. Our small groups are a place for us to learn and explore with mistakes being part of the process. ***It will be important to read the Scripture passage that will be storied in advance a few times and even practice telling it to someone out loud. The more you practice the easier it becomes to tell the story with flow and confidence.*** Our measure for success is when our people can pass God's Word on to others accurately.

Read: 2 Timothy 2

SMALL GROUP COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Start by helping new believers, visitors, and members feel valued and welcomed. This begins with your phone calls and continues as they enter your home and throughout the evening. A warm welcome establishes a foundation for relationships and brings focus to the group.

OPENING PRAYER

Invite God's Holy Spirit into your presence. This prepares your hearts for what God has for you and shifts your attention from individual fellowship to the group.

PURPOSE

Express your purpose behind meeting as a group to help prepare your hearts and minds for the discussion. Remind the group the purpose is to grow as disciples and disciple-makers by applying the Word to our lives.

SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES

Establish and agree upon boundaries for a healthy group. Establish a safe environment where everyone can share openly and honestly. This provides biblical guidance for healthy conflict and resolution. (*Review as needed with the group and when new people attend)*

ICEBREAKER

Do an activity that sets the stage for transparency and trust and helps create a safe environment. This may involve low-risk participation (e.g. small game, testimony, a "hook" question, or worship).

ACCOUNTABILITY

Check in on last week's application. Ask a few members in your group to share their follow through on their actionable next step from the previous week. Help your group grow in action-oriented growth from week to week.

STORY

This is the topic of the group. This section is where you will look at God's Word together. Refer to the "How to Use this story Guide" section of this handbook as a tool to help lead your group discussion.

APPLICATION

How can we apply what we learned to our lives? Individuals in your group name actionable items as next steps based on what they learned today. Write them down for use during the week when you follow-up with your group members. Ask group members to help other group members or assign tasks to group members to develop them spiritually as shepherds and disciple-makers. Designate or ask for a volunteer to facilitate the next group time.

CELEBRATION

Spend time recognizing what God accomplished in the group. Thank and praise God and encourage each other.

CLOSING PRAYER

Refocus your attention on God, share personal prayer requests, group needs, and praise.

BETWEEN GROUP TIMES

- Debrief with your co-leader
- Abide in Christ in prayer and personal Bible study.
- Pray for your group and each member by name.
- Use the check-in information, the application commitments and prayer requests you recorded to drive the conversation and discipleship you do with the group members outside of group.
- Read and pray through the Scripture passage for the coming week once per day.

SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES

THIS IS A SAFE GROUP

Confidentiality is key—what is said in the group stays in the group. Be aware how you are affecting the environment with your words, actions, and non-verbal communication. This needs to be a place where people feel comfortable opening up and sharing.

NO CROSSTALK

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations, phone time, texting etc.

LISTEN

Value one another by listening to what is being shared. Allow a pause after someone shares to allow them to finish and others to consider what was said. Eye contact and body posture play key roles in creating a positive or negative group environment.

NO RESCUING OR FIXING

We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Avoid the tendency to rescue when someone is struggling to get the words out or shares a struggle or conviction.

USE "I" STATEMENTS

It's easy to talk about the issues of others or respond with "we," "us," or "the church," but for us to grow as disciples and build relationships, we need to use "I" statements.

DON'T OVER-TALK

We want to create time for all members of the group to participate in the discussion. Be careful not to always be the first responder or regularly give long responses.

FIGHT FOR RELATIONSHIP

It's not *if* conflict or hurt feelings will happen, but when. We commit to fight for relationship with each other. Go to the person and share your struggle or seek wise advice if you are not sure how to handle the conflict

BIBLE STORYING: HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

The "storying" time of the group consists of the first 4 PARTS**,** followed by 4 discipleship questions, lifestyle application questions, and discipleship leader tips to practice throughout the week.

TRANSITION: Briefly summarize last week's story and ask if it had any impact in their lives over the past week—this is a good share time. Then set up the scene for the scripture passage you are going to read today. **Note: we give you ideas or bullet points for the transition each week but these are not meant to be read but only to guide you.*

READ THE STORY: Read the scripture passage through twice using different translations if available and having two different group members read.

TELL THE STORY: Tell the story the best as you can. Don't stop and teach and try not to make points—just tell the story. The objective is not to memorize it but to learn it and be able to just share it.

REBUILD THE STORY: Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions and having the group look for what was added or left out.

QUESTIONS: You will have four discipleship questions you will use to start the conversation time each week. Be willing to ask multiple questions within each question. You may find that as you start to become adept at asking follow-up questions, you only get through one or two of these in your group time, and that is great! This question time is the primary method of finding out where your people are in their journey with Christ. Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?

LIFE APPLICATION: As the water and seed interact, growth starts to take place as we apply the principles we have learned from God's Word into our lives. You may not always have time to ask these application questions in your group time, so we suggest that you use them in your personal growth time, or as take home questions for the group.

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:
Use these questions and tips as you prepare to lead your group. Ask yourself how you can apply these when you facilitate and ask questions. When you see a "next week is review week" box, be sure to assign story telling for next week at the end of that week's meeting time. This will be a time that you can use to review the last few stories.

Week 1: Discovering Jesus - John 1:29-51

TRANSITION:

After the births of John the Baptist and Jesus, we hear little about either of them except a brief visit to the temple by Jesus when he was twelve years of age. John began his ministry by attracting large crowds to the Jordan River to hear him preach. We join the story when Jesus comes to ask John to baptize Him.

READ THE STORY:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story the best as you can. Don't stop and teach, and try not to make points—just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY:

Ask the story teller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story.
Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.

QUESTIONS:

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. What evidence do you have that Jesus is the Son of God?
2. How do you feel about leaving all other teachers and following Jesus?
3. Who should you invite to come follow Jesus with you?

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:

How does seeing John release his disciples to Jesus apply to you?
At first, people may want to follow you, but you need to introduce them to Jesus and release them to follow Him. They need to know that they are not going to stay in this small group forever. We are to grow and create room for others to come to know Him by creating more groups.

Week 2: Call to Discipleship - Luke 5:1-11

TRANSITION:

Jesus left Judea to return to Galilee. John's disciples continued to discover who Jesus was as He taught and did miracles in His home area. Jesus was rejected by the people at Nazareth and moved to Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee. Then Jesus began to call His disciples to go with Him and become fishers of men. Here is the story from God's Word…

READ THE STORY:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story the best as you can. Don't stop and teach, and try not to make points—just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY:

Ask the story teller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story.
Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.

QUESTIONS:

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. What boat in your life does Jesus want to get in?
2. What is Jesus asking you to do to launch out into the deep?
3. What is the next level of following Jesus that He challenges you to?

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:

- How do you get involved in your disciples' lives?
- Can you get together for dinner, or visit them at work?
- Ask yourself "Are they going to know how to do what I do?"
- Do they understand that small group is for making disciples?

Week 3: Jesus Casts out an Evil Spirit – Mark 1:21-39

TRANSITION:

Jesus continued to show His power by teaching with authority and doing miracles. The disciples were amazed as much as the people! Jesus visited Peter's mother in law and healed her. In this story we also see Jesus worshiping in two very different places. Here is the story from God's Word…

READ THE STORY:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story the best as you can. Don't stop and teach, and try not to make points—just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY:

Ask the story teller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story.
Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.

QUESTIONS:

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. How do you respond to Jesus' authority in teaching and healing?
2. How will you demonstrate the authority of Jesus in your life this week?
3. What two practices of worship does Jesus model in this story?
4. What commitments have you made about public and private worship?
5. What is a quiet time? What should you do during a quiet time to ensure a real meeting with God?
6. What has God communicated to you about your purpose in your quiet time?

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:

Find some time to be alone with God. Time with God = Revelation. Talk about what God teaches you in your quiet time.

Week 4: Jesus Chooses the Twelve - Luke 6:12-23

TRANSITION:

Many people begin to follow Jesus. He called others like Matthew, the tax collector, to follow Him. Then Jesus developed the relationships where He could make disciples. Out of all the people who were following Him, Jesus asked the Father to show Him who His twelve disciples should be. Here is the story from God's Word...

READ THE STORY:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story the best as you can. Don't stop and teach, and try not to make points—just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY:

Ask the story teller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story.
Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.

QUESTIONS:

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. Why do you think Jesus prayed all night? (John 17:5)
2. What was Jesus' purpose in choosing these twelve?
3. Why did He say His disciples would be blessed?
4. What does the story reveal about your attitude as a disciple?

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:

Who does God want you to spend more time within your group? Ask Him.

Week 5: Sermon on the Mount (Part 1 of 2) – Luke 6:27-36

TRANSITON:

Immediately after choosing the twelve, Jesus began to teach them about the Kingdom of God. They needed to understand His teaching and apply it to their lives. Matthew records His teaching as the Sermon on the Mount. Luke records a similar sermon called The Sermon on the Plains that has basically the same teaching but in a simpler form. The teaching rocked the disciples' world.

READ THE STORY:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story the best as you can. Don't stop and teach, and try not to make points—just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY:

Ask the story teller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story.
Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.

QUESTIONS:

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. What is the test of a disciple who follows Jesus as his teacher? Are you following Jesus this way?
2. How can you know if your fruit is good or bad?
3. What is the key to building a good foundation?
4. What life changes will you make because of Jesus' teaching this week?

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:

How do you respond to evil people and/or their actions? Love is an aggressive response that is opposite to that of our flesh. We need to rely on God to help us love people when they wrong us.

Week 6: Sermon on the Mount (Part 2 of 2) – Luke 6:37-49

TRANSITION:

In the second part of Jesus' sermon, He gets even more practical. Instead of making it easier, Jesus raised their expectations. He applied His teachings with a story about the importance of obedience. Here is the rest of story from God's Word...

READ THE STORY:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story the best as you can. Don't stop and teach, and try not to make points—just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY:

Ask the story teller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story.
Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.

QUESTIONS:

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. Name someone who has mistreated you. How could you pray for that person?
2. Are we literally supposed to give to everyone who asks us?
3. How do Jesus' commands in this reading apply to your online behavior? Does anything need to change?
4. Who is someone you don't love? How could you love that person?

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:

As leaders, we are to help people become like Christ. They will learn much of that from how you act. This needs to be shown more frequently than just at small group. Try to think of ways to touch base with your people throughout the week—make calls, email, text, and/or get together with them.

Week 7: Farmer Scattering Seed - Matt 13:1-23

TRANSITION:

Jesus was always teaching the difference between God's view of things and the people's view. He didn't teach anything without telling a story. He loved to use parables that spoke to people on different levels. In Matthew 13, He tells seven parables that gave light to the believers and confused those who rejected His teaching. Here is the first parable from God's Word...

READ THE STORY:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story the best as you can. Don't stop and teach, and try not to make points—just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY:

Ask the story teller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story.
Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.

QUESTIONS:

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. Why did Jesus tell stories?
2. How does the Word/Seed multiply?
3. What are the rocks or thorns in your life that choke the Word?
4. What does this story tell you about telling stories?

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:

Take steps to ensure that these stories become applicable to your people's lives. Challenge them to tell these stories to others during the week. You should model this by doing it and then sharing with the group stories of what happened.

Week 8: Jesus Heals - Mark 5:21-43

TRANSITION:

Jesus taught through sermons and parables, but He loved to teach through miracles, also. He applied the teaching and power of God to all kinds of sick, demon-possessed persons, and even the dead. Here are three stories from God's Word that show His power and love...

READ THE STORY:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story the best as you can. Don't stop and teach, and try not to make points—just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.

QUESTIONS:

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. How does Jesus' power over demons, disease, and death relate to your problems?
2. How does Jesus' instructions to each of the persons in this story apply to your life? *(woman, disciples, Jairus, mourners, dead girl, parents)*
3. What does the response of each of these persons say to you about your response to Jesus?

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:

How does a discipler decide on competing priorities? *(Look to where God is at work! Where someone has faith.)* As a discipler, what do you do when the obvious blinds you to the work of God?

Week 9: Jesus Sends Out the Twelve - Matthew 9:35-10:22

TRANSITION:

For more than a year, Jesus proclaimed the Kingdom of God and healed people with all kinds of diseases in Galilee. Then He asked His disciples to pray for workers because the multitudes were milling around like sheep without a shepherd. So He gave the disciples the authority over unclean spirits and every kind of sickness. Then He sent them to the cities of Israel that He planned to visit. Here is the story of what He told them to do...

READ THE STORY:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story the best as you can. Don't stop and teach, and try not to make points—just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story.
Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.

QUESTIONS:

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. Why should you respond to Jesus' compassion and command to pray for laborers for the harvest?
2. How do Jesus' instructions to His disciples apply to us today? What doesn't apply to us today?
3. What have you been sent to do?
4. Who is a person of peace, and how does that relate to us witnessing today?

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:

Since the harvest is plentiful, yet the workers are few, you can help by praying for and intentionally looking for people in your group who are ready to start apprenticing with you and looking ahead to forming future groups.

Week 10: Jesus Feeds the 5,000 & Walks on Water - Matthew 14:13-33

TRANSITION:

Up until now, Jesus has ministered publicly to the multitudes, but now His strategy changes to more of a private one. Herod had just beheaded John the Baptist, the Scribes and Pharisees were planning Jesus' death, some of the crowds wanted to make Him a king, and His disciples needed time for more teaching and preparation for the last half of Jesus' ministry on earth. Here is the story of Jesus' first withdrawal after John's death when the people followed Him anyway...

READ THE STORY:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story the best as you can. Don't stop and teach, and try not to make points—just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story.
Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.

QUESTIONS:

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. How should we react when things go wrong yet people keep looking to us for the answers?
2. What are the implications for us today when Jesus said, "You feed them"?
3. What are you asking Jesus to do for you that would be similar to Peter asking Jesus to tell him to walk on the water?
4. What if you ask for things that are not according to God's will?

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:

Create a culture where failure is okay; people need to try and fail so that they can learn. They need to learn that we can fail in leadership and get up and try again. It takes a lot of practice! Are you modeling failures? Are you allowing people to fail by supporting them and helping them try again?

Week 11: Jesus -The Bread of Life – John 6:22-69

TRANSITION:

After Jesus fed the 5,000 men and their families, they pursued Him to the other side of the lake wanting more food. Jesus challenged them to move from seeking physical bread to seeking the Bread of Life. He asks them to do something that separated the true disciples from just followers who had the wrong motivation. Here is the story from God's Word…

READ THE STORY:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story the best as you can. Don't stop and teach, and try not to make points—just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story.
Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.

QUESTIONS:

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. After looking at the Jews' motivations for seeking Jesus, what are your motivations, and what would Jesus say about them?
2. How can we "eat Jesus' flesh and drink his blood"?
3. If you were in the crowd that day, what would your response be to Jesus' teaching and why?

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:

Who in your group is hungry for spiritual things, and who waits for you to feed them? Challenge those who wait to learn how to feed themselves. Show them how.

Week 12: Peter's Confession of Christ– Matthew 16:13-27

TRANSITION:

At the halfway point in Jesus' earthly ministry, He took His disciples on a retreat to both settle their questions about who He was and to explain His coming death, resurrection, and it's meaning for them. This was a real turning point in the disciples' growth and preparation for their future ministry. Here is the story from God's Word...

READ THE STORY:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story the best as you can. Don't stop and teach, and try not to make points—just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY:

Ask the story teller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story.
Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.

QUESTIONS:

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. How do disciples then and now come to believe Jesus is the Messiah?
2. What does it mean to you for Jesus to give you the Keys of the Kingdom?
3. What does it mean to you to lose your life for Christ's sake?
4. What are you exchanging your life in Christ for?
5. Now that you know the cost of following Jesus, what will you do differently?

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:

Help your people understand it is all or nothing when it comes to following Jesus. Acknowledge together when someone is right, or wrong.

Week 13: Transfiguration – Matthew 17:1-21

TRANSITION:

After Christ's revelation about who He was and what was going to happen to Him, Jesus gave three disciples the opportunity to see Him in His glory on the Mount of Transfiguration. Meanwhile, the disciples down in the valley faced another revelation: that they could do nothing without faith in Christ. Here is the story from God's Word...

READ THE STORY:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story the best as you can. Don't stop and teach, and try not to make points—just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story.
Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.

QUESTIONS:

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. Tell about a time when you had a mountain top experience followed by a valley experience?
2. What was the significance of the Mount of Transfiguration for Jesus? The disciples? For you?
3. What mountains do you have that need to be moved, and how can you have faith enough to move them?

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:

Discuss in group the realities of life? Help each other have an encounter with God. Allow each other to struggle with things, instead of answering for each other.

Week 14: Forgiving a Brother – Matthew 18:15-35

TRANSITION:

Jesus had just told the disciples that He would be killed, and He talked to Moses and Elijah about it on the Mount of Transfiguration. Then He taught the disciples how to deal with people who sin against them. It was a shock to them to learn that they needed to forgive people time after time. Here is the story from God's Word...

READ THE STORY:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story the best as you can. Don't stop and teach, and try not to make points—just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY:

Ask the story teller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story.
Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.

QUESTIONS:

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. Is there anyone you have had a hard time forgiving? Who and why?
2. What does God's forgiveness of your many sins say to you about forgiving others?
3. What is the process of forgiving those who wrong you or have something against you?

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:

- As a leader, are you modeling forgiveness in your group?
- Are you allowing problems to fester in your group, or are you working to resolve them?

Week 15: The Cost of Following Jesus – Luke 9:57-10:1

TRANSITION:

Just before Jesus started for Jerusalem, He told the disciples that excuses did not work for true disciples. He then expanded the workers by sending out the seventy on His mission. Here is the story from God's Word...

READ THE STORY:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story the best as you can. Don't stop and teach, and try not to make points—just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY:

Ask the story teller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story.
Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.

QUESTIONS:

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. When you first decided to follow Christ, what did you think it would cost, and what did you think you would gain?
2. What would look different in your life if you paid the cost to follow Christ that He expects you to pay?
3. What's the first step to following Jesus like He expects? Are you ready?

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:

- How do you deal with excuses in your group?
- Are you modeling not having excuses for not doing what the Lord wants you to do?

Week 16: The Lord's Prayer – Luke 11:1-13

TRANSITION:

Jesus went to the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem and faced opposition. In the middle of this situation, the disciples saw Jesus praying and asked Him to teach them to pray. He gave them what is popularly called The Lord's Prayer. Jesus emphasized His teaching by giving another story. Here is the story from God's Word...

READ THE STORY:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story the best as you can. Don't stop and teach, and try not to make points—just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY:

Ask the story teller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story.
Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.

QUESTIONS:

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. What are each of the requests in The Lord's Prayer? Explain each.
2. What should you do when you have a need?
3. When you don't get an answer to your prayer, what should you do? What do you do?

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:

Make time at the end of group for someone to retell the story from your group that night. It helps them to know it and prepares them to be able to use it this week.

Week 17: The Cost of Being a Disciple– Luke 14:25-35

TRANSITION:

Jesus wept over Jerusalem and their missed opportunity to receive Him as the Messiah. Once again, Jesus talks to the disciples about what it costs to follow Him. He demands that He be the first priority over persons, purposes, and possessions. Here is the story from God's Word…

READ THE STORY:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY:

Ask the story teller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story.
Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.

QUESTIONS:

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. Who is one person you love that may keep you from following Jesus?
2. What does it mean to carry your own cross?
3. How does the tower story and the story of the advancing army apply to your life?
4. What is the salt of a disciple?

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:

- How do you keep Jesus first in your life?
- Evaluate your purposes in your life in light of the cross.
- Do you help your group count the cost before they make decisions?

Week 18: Sheep, Silver, Prodigal – Luke 15:1-32

TRANSITION:

Jesus moved from the cost of discipleship to the task of a disciple: seeking the lost. The scribes and Pharisees had just criticized Jesus for eating with sinners. He told three stories to set them straight on what mattered to Him. Here is the story from God's Word…

READ THE STORY:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story the best as you can. Don't stop and teach, and try not to make points—just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY:

Ask the story teller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story.
Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.

QUESTIONS:

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. How important to God is your family member or relative who is lost?
2. How important is it to you?
3. What is our part in finding the lost?
4. Which of the characters in the story do you most clearly resemble? Why?

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:

- Model how to go after the lost by calling your people when they are absent?
- Does your group know that they are also responsible for each other?

Week 19: Lazarus Raised from the Dead – John 11:1-49

TRANSITION:

Jesus faced going to Jerusalem for the last time. His unbelieving brothers urged Him to go and do miracles there if He was the Messiah, but He told them "No." He told His disciples several times that He faced rejection and death, yet they still followed Him. In today's story, we see Him make an astounding claim and do an extraordinary miracle on his way to Jerusalem. Here is the story from God's Word...

READ THE STORY:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story the best as you can. Don't stop and teach, and try not to make points—just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY:

Ask the story teller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story.
Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.

QUESTIONS:

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. How do you react when faced with a risk for following Jesus as Thomas did?
2. How do you react when Jesus' timing doesn't seem to fit your need? Why?
3. What will you do to show your faith in Jesus when you face the death of a loved one or your own death?

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:

How should we respond when the Father's expectations clash with those of your disciples/group members?

- Recognize that God's ways are higher than our ways.
- Respond to the Spirit's leadership rather than the expectations of others.
- Be patient when your others don't understand.
- Depend on God to do what you can't do.

Week 20: Serving Others – Mark 10:31-45

TRANSITION:

When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, it raised the stakes for the Jewish leaders. Every day brought Jesus closer to His death. The disciples faced each day's new situation with fear and hope. They began to talk about how they would act when Jesus was no longer with them. They competed for leadership. We join them as they follow Jesus into Jerusalem. Here is the story from God's Word...

READ THE STORY:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story the best as you can. Don't stop and teach, and try not to make points—just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY:

Ask the story teller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story.
Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.

QUESTIONS:

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. When do we compete for positions in God's kingdom, the church, or the small group? How do we show this competition?
2. How do you show a servant's attitude and actions?
3. What will you do to serve members of the group this week?

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:

How do you deal with competition in your group?

- Show each other the big picture as Jesus did.
- Challenge each other when they show selfish desires.
- Use these times to teach eternal truths.

Week 21: Triumphal Entry – Luke 19:28-48

TRANSITION:

In the midst of petty arguments and earth-shattering events, Jesus faced the battle of the ages. His emotions ran from exhilarating joy to sheer despair over His disciples and the rejection of the Jews. We join Him and His disciples in one of these up and down emotional days as they entered Jerusalem. Just before our story today, He told the parable of the ten talents and the king who would kill the enemies that rejected him. Now, here is the story from God's word...

READ THE STORY:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story the best as you can. Don't stop and teach, and try not to make points—just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY:

Ask the story teller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story.
Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.

QUESTIONS:

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. What would you have done if Jesus asked you to get someone's colt (or pickup truck) for Him to use? Why?
2. Why did Jesus cry? How do you feel about those who reject Jesus?

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:

As a leader, how do you deal with the emotional swings and pressures every leader faces?

- Have a daily time with the Father to keep you on track with His purposes.
- Don't pay too much attention to those who praise you or criticize you.

Week 22: Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet– John 13:1-26

TRANSITION:

Jesus was bombarded by questions about His authority, paying taxes, even marriage in the resurrection. He talked to His disciples about the signs of the end of the age. Judas agreed to betray Jesus to the chief priests. With all this swirling around Him, Jesus wanted to eat the last Passover meal with His disciples and teach them about what was going to happen to Him. It was at this Passover meal that Jesus modeled leadership in the Kingdom. Here is the story from God's Word...

READ THE STORY:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story the best as you can. Don't stop and teach, and try not to make points—just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY:

Ask the story teller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story.
Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.

QUESTIONS:

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. Does Jesus serve out of weakness or strength? What is your self - identity when serving?
2. Why should we "wash one another's feet"?
3. What does "washing feet" look like in your daily life?

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:

What attitude and actions should you show to your disciples/small group members in light of this story?

- You are the model as you follow Christ.
- You take the initiative to serve them first.
- You show anguish of spirit when any of your disciples fails or betrays you.

Week 23: Jesus - The Way to the Father – John 14:1-18

TRANSITION:

Jesus not only said that one would betray Him but also that Peter would deny Him. They were all shocked, especially Peter who vowed to lay down his life for Jesus. Then Jesus began to help them understand more clearly who He was and where He was going. He also introduced the Holy Spirit to them as his replacement. Here is the story from God's Word...

READ THE STORY:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story the best as you can. Don't stop and teach, and try not to make points—just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY:

Ask the story teller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story.
Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.

QUESTIONS:

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. How will you answer people who say there are many ways to heaven and they all end in the same place?
2. What does Jesus mean when He told the disciples that they would do greater works than He did? What does it mean to you?
3. How do you live and work in the Spirit?

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:

How do you help your disciples to take your place and lead others?

- Make sure they understand the basics.
- Encourage them at what they can do by the power and presence of the Father.
- Teach them about the Holy Spirit and how He will live in them and furnish what they need & remind them about the promises of God and their destiny.

Week 24: Jesus - The True Vine – John 15:1-17

TRANSITION:

After Jesus clarified that He was the way, the truth, and the life, and that everything He did came from the Father, He moved on to help the disciples understand that their life was in Him. Jesus taught them the secret of how to live in Christ by comparing their lives to the vine, the branches, and the fruit. Here is the story from God's Word...

READ THE STORY:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story the best as you can. Don't stop and teach, and try not to make points—just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY:

Ask the story teller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story.
Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.

QUESTIONS:

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. How can we stay connected to Christ?
2. How well are you bearing the fruit of the Spirit?
3. How can you fulfill the purpose for which Christ chose you?

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:

How do you communicate the truth of abiding in Christ to your group members?

- Use analogies like the vine. Think of several that teach the same truths.
- Demonstrate the importance of relating to Christ as a friend and as other disciples as brothers and sisters

Week 25: Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial – Luke 22:31-62

TRANSITION:

After teaching the disciples how to live in Him, Jesus had to tell Peter that Satan was going to sift him like wheat, and that he would deny Jesus. As they approached the Mount of Olives, Jesus' sorrow mounted. He faced the fact that the will of His Father was that He should die for the sins of the world. He spent time in prayer while the disciples slept. Now here is the story from God's Word...

READ THE STORY:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story the best as you can. Don't stop and teach, and try not to make points—just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY:

Ask the story teller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story.
Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.

QUESTIONS:

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. In what ways do we deny Christ today?
2. We all know that Satan is sifting us. How do you overcome his temptations? What do you learn from the negative model of the disciples and Jesus' positive model?
3. When have you felt that Christ looked at you after you had failed like He looked at Peter? What did you do? What will you do when you face temptation in the future?

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:

How do you handle when there are failures in group or outside of group?

- Warn them of Satan and temptations.
- Encourage them to pray for strength to meet their temptations and trials.
- Share personal successes with failures and show vulnerability.

Week 26: Jesus Crucified – Mark 15:1-39

TRANSITION:

Jesus had just gone through the first of six trials preceding His crucifixion. After the Jewish leaders turned Him over to Pilate, Jesus went through the rest of His trials in short order and faced crucifixion. Here is the story from God's Word as Mark told it...

READ THE STORY:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story the best as you can. Don't stop and teach, and try not to make points—just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY:

Ask the story teller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story.
Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.

QUESTIONS:

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. If you had been in this story, which person do you think you would be? Why?
2. What part of the crucifixion story touches you the most? Why?
3. Care for people even when you are suffering.
   (The dying thief and Jesus' mother)

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:

How do you live out your teaching?

- Believe so strongly what you teach that you turn the other cheek when hit.
- Live out the rest of Matthew: 5:39-47. If someone demands from you, offer more than they're asking for. Pray for and love on your enemies.
- What does it mean to you to be crucified with Christ? *(Galatians 2:20)*

Week 27: He Is Alive – Luke 24:1-49

TRANSITION:

It was over. Jesus had paid the ultimate sacrifice to redeem us—death on the cross. Two members of the Sanhedrin (the Jewish high court), Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, buried Jesus in Joseph's new tomb. The women who had followed Jesus all His ministry saw where they buried Him and planned to bring spices the next morning after the Sabbath. Here is the story from God's Word...

READ THE STORY:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story the best as you can. Don't stop and teach, and try not to make points—just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY:

Ask the story teller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story.
Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.

QUESTIONS:

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. How do you think you would have reacted if Jesus appeared to you after you saw Him dead?
2. How would you answer someone who asked what proof you had that Jesus was resurrected?
3. Who will you tell the resurrection story to this week with the same enthusiasm as the disciples telling others?

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:

How can you help your disciples/small group to make Christ's resurrection the central focus of their lives?

- Show them the proof of His resurrection.
- Help them do a study of the prophecies Jesus probably used showing God's p

Week 28: Jesus Restores Peter – John 21:1-23

TRANSITION:

Jesus told His disciples to go to Galilee where He would meet them. No doubt, Peter was devastated by his denial of Jesus even though Jesus had shown Himself personally to him. Evidently, they grew restless, and Peter took several of the disciples fishing—perhaps going back to their old profession. Jesus came to Peter and confronted him. Here is the story from God's Word...

READ THE STORY:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story the best as you can. Don't stop and teach, and try not to make points—just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY:

Ask the story teller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story.
Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.

QUESTIONS:

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. What do you think the disciples thought when Jesus told them to cast on the right side and they caught many fish? Can you think of a flashback for them?
2. How can we show that we love Jesus?
3. What steps can you take to show that you are taking responsibility for making disciples instead of asking about what others are going to do?

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:

What do you do when you have a disciple who is struggling with sin or group participation?

1. Confront the person.
2. Use a previous experience to help them remember their original commitment. Challenge them to take responsibility and not look at others, for their mistakes & struggles
3. Remind them that following Christ is costly.

Week 29: The Promise of the Holy Spirit – Acts 1:1-10

TRANSITION:

Luke told the story of Jesus telling His disciples to stay in Jerusalem until they were filled with the Holy Spirit—to wait for the promise of the Father. Jesus did not tell them how long that would be or how long He would keep appearing to them. Luke picks up the story in the second letter he wrote: the book of Acts.
Here is the story from God's Word...

READ THE STORY:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY:

Ask the story teller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story.
Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.

QUESTIONS:

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. How are you like the disciples before they were filled with the Spirit?
2. How can you carry out Jesus' statement that His disciples would bear witness of Him in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth?
3. What should you do between the promise of the Spirit and the filling of the Spirit?

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:

How can you answer questions that your disciples ask that you don't know the answer to? *(Don't fake it)*

- Tell them what you know about the Kingdom of God.
- When you don't know the answer because God has not revealed it, challenge them with what you do know that applies to them.
- Invite them to apply what you know and keep digging.

Week 30: Pentecost– Acts 2

TRANSITION:

After the disciples saw Jesus ascend into heaven, they went back to the upper room where they had met Him many times. They waited as He had told them to do. They prayed. They searched the Scriptures. They cast lots to see which of the disciples that had followed Jesus the whole time should take the place of Judas. They waited in Jerusalem but probably had no idea what was about to happen when the promise of the Father was answered. Here is the story from God's Word.

READ THE STORY:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story the best as you can. Don't stop and teach, and try not to make points—just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY:

Ask the story teller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story.
Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.

QUESTIONS:

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. What will you answer when people ask, "How can this be?" concerning the Spirit working in your own life?
2. What will you say when people ask, "What should we do?" because they are convicted about Christ being the Savior?
3. Which of the things the disciples did after Pentecost (verses 42-46) is your group doing? What changes need to be made?

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:

How do you lead when God is obviously at work?

- Explain the Scriptures that relate to what is happening.
- Give a clear witness to Christ.
- Lead the groups to practice all the spiritual disciplines of discipleship.

Week 31: Peter – Acts 3-4:31

TRANSITION:

The Holy Spirit radically changed the disciples, and they began to live the life that Christ had promised when they began to follow Him. They worshiped in their homes and in the temple. As they went, they began to do miracles as Christ had promised. That got them in trouble but resulted in the church growing greatly. Here is the first recorded story after the Pentecost experience...

READ THE STORY:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story the best as you can. Don't stop and teach, and try not to make points—just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story.
Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.

QUESTIONS:

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. What is the result of ordinary disciples filled with the Holy Spirit?
2. Under what conditions should you fear or obey those who try to stop you from witnessing?
3. What should you pray when you are threatened?

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:

How do you keep leading when you encounter personal attacks?

- Rely on the Holy Spirit to give you words, and stand firm in Him.
- Give a clear witness to Christ.
- Pray for boldness to speak for Him.

Week 32: On Fire– Acts 8-1:25

TRANSITION:

God greatly blessed the disciples, and they increased with every challenge. They had to face the threats and persecution of the Jewish authorities, deception in their ranks, prejudice in the church, and the first martyrdom. God's plan to cross every barrier led them out from Judea to Samaria and to the ends of the earth. One of the chief opponents, Saul, participated in Stephen's death but could not stamp out the witness to Jesus wherever they were scattered. Here is the story from God's word...

READ THE STORY:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story the best as you can. Don't stop and teach, and try not to make points—just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story.
Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.

QUESTIONS:

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. How do you plan to deal with persecution or discrimination if it comes because of your witness to Jesus?
2. Who lives in your "Samaria" who needs to hear from you about Jesus?
3. How will you prepare to witness in "one time meetings" with other people?

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:

How can you support your disciples in their ministries?

- Turn them loose.
- Support their ministries, help add anything that is missing.
- Learn from them and do what they have pioneered.

Week 33: No One Left Out– Acts 10

TRANSITION:

God continued to push the disciples out across barriers—geographical, religious, and social. He brought Saul to Himself through the encounter on the road to Damascus. He used Ananias to follow up with Saul and accompany him on his first witnessing there. But there was one deep-seated barrier that the church had to overcome: their relationship with the Gentiles. It took another intervention from God. Here is the story from God's Word...

READ THE STORY:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story the best as you can. Don't stop and teach, and try not to make points—just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY:

Ask the story teller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story.
Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.

QUESTIONS:

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. What traditions do you hold that Christ would challenge?
2. How do you break the bonds of prejudice?
3. How will you apply the lessons Peter learned in your world today?

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:

How do you deal with leaders when God leads you in a different direction?

- Face up to the change God wants to make in you.
- Take others with you while you are on the journey.
- Give your defense to your leaders based on the leadership of God.
- Take a stand on principles when it counts.

Week 34: Barnabas and Saul – Acts 13:1-12

TRANSITION:

Through Peter, God broke down the middle wall between Jews and Gentiles in Judea, but He launched the missionary movement to the ends of the earth through Barnabas and Saul. No longer was it an individual effort, but eventually, the whole church got involved in the mission of God. Here's how it started from the story in God's Word...

READ THE STORY:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story the best as you can. Don't stop and teach, and try not to make points—just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story.
Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.

QUESTIONS:

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. Who sent out the first missionaries? What should we be doing if we want God to call out missionaries to the world?
2. What preparation did the first missionaries have before being sent out? What preparation do we need today to be missionaries?
3. What should we do if we go to another culture as missionaries?

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:

If God calls you or some of your disciples to be cross-cultural missionaries, what should you do as a leader?

- Be sure you have the blessing of the church and the filling of the Spirit.
- Preach the gospel, and confront those who oppose it.
- Finish your missionary journey and report back to the church the amazing acts of God