

writing a bible study

Disciple 13 Resources

Use this worksheet to develop a discussion based Bible study for a small group.

step 1: select a passage

If one has not already been selected for you, you must choose a passage to study. Pick something you've been challenged by in your personal study recently, something that's been on your heart, or something you've studied before.

Write the book, chapter and verse of the passage here: JOHN 13:1-17

step 2: prepare yourself

Spend some time reading the passage you've selected. Pray about it and meditate on it. Ask God to reveal himself to you through this passage. Try to discern the focus of the passage. The point of it.

If you have study materials available, you might even read a commentary or two on the passage. Try to get to the heart of what the passage is saying.

In one sentence, state the point of the passage here:

JESUS LED HIS DISCIPLES BY SERVING THEM AND WE SHOULD LEAD THE SAME WAY.

step 3: intro

Clear your mind—don't think about the passage—and read the focus statement you wrote above. What's comes to mind?

LEADERSHIP/BEING A LEADER

Write 1-2 intro questions based your answer to the last question.

1. WHO ARE SOME OF THE PEOPLE YOU LOOK TO AS LEADERS? WHY?
2. GIVE THE WORST EXAMPLE OF LEADERSHIP YOU CAN THINK OF—WHO'S THE WORST LEADER YOU'VE EVER SEEN? WHAT MADE THAT PERSON A POOR LEADER? IF THEY HAD WANTED TO BECOME A BETTER LEADER WHAT WOULD THEY HAVE NEEDED TO CHANGE?

step 4: bible study

Now, keeping the point of the passage in mind, write 3-4 discussion questions about the passage. Remember that good discussion questions have no right or wrong answer. Good discussion questions are “how” questions.

And good discussion questions *promote discussion*. These questions should focus on the passage rather than on the group members as this is less threatening and will lead naturally to the application questions.

1. JOHN BEGINS THIS PASSAGE BY SAYING THAT THIS IS HOW JESUS “SHOWED THE DISCIPLES THE FULL EXTENT OF HIS LOVE,” (VS. 1). HOW WERE JESUS’ ACTIONS LOVING?
2. THINK OF OTHER BIBLE STORIES YOU KNOW, OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT—HOW HAS GOD DEMONSTRATED HIS LOVE FOR HIS PEOPLE WHILE LEADING THEM?
3. JESUS WAS GIVEN AUTHORITY OVER EVERYTHING (VS. 3), AND HE RESPONDED BY SERVING. WHAT DOES THIS TELL YOU ABOUT JESUS? WHAT ROLE DOES SUBMITTING PLAY IN LEADING?
4. IN WHAT WAYS DOES JESUS MODEL TRUE “SERVANT LEADERSHIP” IN THIS STORY?

step 5: application

Finally, write 1-2 application questions. These should bring the passage back home—they should make the point of the passage real and applicable.

Now is your chance to challenge the group with the meaning of the passage. Look at your focus statement one more time...and then write questions that will draw the group toward that focus.

1. JESUS TELLS HIS DISCIPLES TO DO WHAT HE'S DONE (VS. 15)—WHAT DOES JESUS MEAN BY THAT? WHAT WILL IT LOOK LIKE WHEN WE "WASH EACH OTHERS' FEET"?
2. WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR YOU TO BE A "SERVANT LEADER"?

step 6: teaching note

Your last step is simply to fill out the teaching note on the following page. Use this as your guide when leading the study.

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passage: JOHN 13:1-17

the point

JESUS LED HIS DISCIPLES BY SERVING THEM AND WE SHOULD LEAD THE SAME WAY.

intro questions

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2. GIVE THE WORST EXAMPLE OF LEADERSHIP YOU CAN THINK OF—WHO'S THE WORST LEADER YOU'VE EVER SEEN? WHAT MADE THAT PERSON A POOR LEADER? IF THEY HAD WANTED TO BECOME A BETTER LEADER WHAT WOULD THEY HAVE NEEDED TO CHANGE?

bible study

read: the passage

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2. THINK OF OTHER BIBLE STORIES YOU KNOW, OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT—HOW HAS GOD DEMONSTRATED HIS LOVE FOR HIS PEOPLE WHILE LEADING THEM?
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application

1. JESUS TELLS HIS DISCIPLES TO DO WHAT HE'S DONE (VS. 15)—WHAT DOES JESUS MEAN BY THAT? WHAT WILL IT LOOK LIKE WHEN WE "WASH EACH OTHERS' FEET"?
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