

What am I doing here?



Fellowship

1. What do you do that brings you the most fulfillment?
2. What do you perceive your purpose to be right now?



Discipleship

3. Read Colossians 1:16-20. How does the truth that you were made by God challenge you to a positive self-image?
4. How might the fact that you were made *for* Him challenge your priorities? Life-long goals?
5. Talk about the phrase: “When the will of God crosses the will of man, something has to die.”
6. Read Psalm 138:8. How does this verse encourage you?
7. From the above passage, how could a person hinder God’s purpose for their life? What are some ways to safeguard against that?



Ministry

8. Minister to each other by having a person or two share their individual salvation stories. What were the circumstances of your entrance into God’s family?
(Every 7th week we meet will be a celebration—those might be good times for others to share)



Evangelism

9. Think of the names of 5 people you know who are living without purpose. Write down their names and commit to praying for them during this series. This week, try to initiate a discussion with at least one over what you've learned today.



Worship

10. Read Psalm 139:1-16, taking turns reading each verse.

11. Spend a few minutes in prayer for the names in #9, and each other, as we embark on our journey to purpose-filled lives.

God's Report Card



Fellowship

1. What have you done that just felt “right”...like you were created to do it?



Discipleship

2. Read Psalm 149:4. Does this image of God coincide with your previous view of God?
3. Re-read Ephesians 1:3-14. What gives God pleasure in verse 5? In verses 9, 10?
4. Read the following verses aloud:

Revelation 4:11
Psalm 149:4a
Psalm 119:135
Psalm 147:11
Proverbs 11:20
Proverbs 12:22

How can you bring pleasure to God in your lives based on these verses?

5. Discuss this quote by atheist Bertrand Russell:

“Unless you assume a God, the question of life’s purpose is meaningless.”



Ministry

6. Have one or two more group members share their stories of how they became part of God’s family.



Evangelism

7. Share how your conversations with your unsaved friends went this past week.



Worship

8. You are not “lost” in the sea of humanity and hidden from His sight. Take turns reading the verses of Psalm 147 as you worship His tender yet powerful care.

9. Share prayer requests and commit them in prayer to the only One who has the power to take care of them.

The best is yet to come



Fellowship

1. What motivates you to do well in your job or school?



Discipleship

2. Read Psalm 33:11. Name some of the plans of the Lord that endure forever. What are the purposes of His heart?
3. How can you align your purposes with His in order to have a life with meaning?
4. Read I Peter 1:13-17. List the commands given in this passage. Which do you struggle with most?
5. Read Hebrews 12:2 and 2 Corinthians 4:18. How did Jesus view Himself as a temporary resident of earth?
6. How will that help you deal with difficulties this week?
7. Read I Peter 5:4. How does knowing you will carry your “report card” of earth for eternity challenge you to do your best now? What might you change about your life?



Ministry

8. We all experience fatigue at times, physically, spiritually, emotionally, and mentally. Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-10. Minister to each other using these verses as you share your individual prayer requests and struggles. We'll pray together in a moment as we focus on worship.



Evangelism

9. Spend a minute of silent prayer thinking of those within your circle of influence whose only hope is in this life.



Worship

10. Mercy is defined as “not getting what we deserve.” Grace is “getting what we don't deserve.” Worship God for His grace today seen in His reward system found in Matthew 19:28-30. Pray for the requests and people God brought to mind in the last few minutes.

What about me?



Fellowship

1. Describe a time this last week when your focus on God was derailed and your life revolved around you.



Discipleship

2. Re-read Luke 12:22-34. If you are to obey verse 31, how will your life need to change?
3. What's a good litmus test, according to verse 34, of who your life revolves around?
4. Read Romans 12:1. What will offering your body to God look like in your life this week?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. When your eyes aren't fixed on the eternal, on what are they usually fixed?
6. Discuss the quote by John Piper: "The weakness of our hunger for God is not because he is unsavory, but because we keep ourselves stuffed with other things."



Ministry

7. If anyone in your small group has not had the opportunity to share their salvation experience, have them do so today. Or, if they have not yet committed their life to Christ—they can share why.
8. Share one specific prayer request for this coming week. How can your small group encourage you to live a life that's God-focused? Pray specifically for each member.



Worship

Before you leave...next week your group will be given the chance to share communion together. If your group or church feels comfortable doing this, then take a volunteer to make preparations.

9. Read Psalm 100 and if you feel comfortable, sing a song of praise together.

The Driving Force



Fellowship

1. Describe a distasteful job you had this week. What was your attitude like?



Discipleship

2. According to Acts 3:19 and Galatians 5:1, why did Christ wipe out your sins?
3. Are you currently experiencing more refreshing/freedom or regret?
4. Have you forgiven your past, but find that others haven't? Using the principle in II Corinthians 10:5 and any other Scripture, how can you combat that negativity?
5. Read Romans 12:2. What keys does this verse give to a healthy thought life?
6. Read Philippians 3:13. How can you relate to Paul in needing to forget your past mistakes?



Ministry

7. If your group made plans to: Share communion together today, using Mark 14:22-26 as your guide. Preface it with a time of personal prayer time and confession for any lack of forgiveness, and an opportunity to allow any conflicts within the group to be resolved.



Evangelism

8. What is a service project that your small group can do for your community or neighbors? Spend a few moments brainstorming and developing an action plan for this coming week!



Worship

9. Spend some time in prayer for each other and then thanking God for His faithful forgiveness and blood that has set us free from bondage.

What's going on here?



Fellowship

1. Share a time in your life when confusing circumstances resulted in a crisis of faith.



Discipleship

2. Read I Corinthians 15:54 and II Corinthians 5:2-5. How are your life circumstances causing you to long for heaven?
3. Read Hebrews chapter 11. How is faith defined according to verse 1?
4. Who do you most admire in this “Hall of Faith” (Hebrews 11)?
5. What do we have in common with those in Hebrews 11? (verses 39, 40) How would your personal hero react with ***your*** toughest challenge?
6. What events have you seen as handicaps that later you realized were blessings?
7. How can you personally obey Mark 11:22 this week?
8. Why is obedience to Ephesians 6:16 so crucial?



Ministry

9. How are you a living example of II Corinthians 5:7 right now? Encourage each other as you share their struggles.
10. If you're willing, share some areas of doubt/confusion that you might each be facing, and we'll pray for them before we leave.
11. Be sure to take a minute and plan your celebration for next week.



Evangelism

12. Talk about your group service project and finalize any plans in order to complete it this week.



Worship

13. Read Psalm 139 again, and take turns sharing which verse is most significant to you. Then close in prayer remembering the challenges shared earlier.

Celebration week...

Remember, there's no video this week. You're supposed to be celebrating.

Acts 2:46-47 (The Message)

They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.

I'll do my best



Fellowship

1. Describe a time you gave a project your all and felt proud of the results. When did you rush through something and feel regret?



Discipleship

2. How does your life or priorities need to change in order to offer God the best that you have? Give specifics.

3. Re-read Matthew 25:14-29. What are some modern-day talents people receive from the Master? How can they be multiplied?

4. Based on verse 24, what are some modern day *excuses* for not putting those talents to good use?

5. What are the consequences for second-rate or lazy investments?



Ministry

6. Sometimes we have talents we don't even realize! What strengths do you see in your fellow group members that can be offered to God?

7. How can *your* gifts be used within this small group? Do you need the services of a fellow group member's gift?



Evangelism

8. Those around us are watching and taking note of the quality of our sacrifices. Who can you bless this week with what you have at your disposal?



Worship

9. Spend 5 minutes in silent prayer offering your lives, talents and best to God.

Spend the remainder of your time publicly thanking God for your resources, and for upcoming challenges.

Testing 1-2-3



Fellowship

1. What has happened to you recently that you now realize was a test from God?



Discipleship

2. Read John 15:1-8. What is God's ultimate goal for our lives? How far will He go to see it accomplished?
3. How do you think a person's level of teachability will affect the pruning process? Do you think God would describe you as teachable?
4. Read Philippians 3:4b-11. Like Paul, how has God used your past experiences to fit you more fully for future service?
5. Compare Paul's view of success (verse 10) to yours.
6. What are the greatest things God has entrusted to you? How might God use those to test your character? Your faithfulness? Your stewardship?
7. Read I Corinthians 2:9-14 and John 14:16-20. These verses tell us why the Holy Spirit is such a great teacher. If you really believed these verses, (down deep inside) how would it change your day.



Ministry

8. Re-read Luke 22:31-34. Intercessory prayer on our behalf is powerful...not to mention encouraging! Share with the group what you believe will be one of your tests this coming week. Now pair up with a prayer partner until our next session. During the next week, pray daily that your partner would pass his/her test, and check in with each other mid-way through the week.



Worship

9. Read Hebrews 4:14-16. List the qualities of our High Priest. How does this encourage you? Challenge your previous view of God?



Evangelism

10. Your assignment last week was to bless someone with the resources that God has put at your disposal. Share the results. Close in prayer for God to bless those efforts and the requests listed in # 8.

Family Business



Fellowship

1. Describe a past crisis that made you grateful for your Christian community.



Discipleship

2. Re-read Romans 12:1-7. Based on verse 1, how much of our lives are at our disposal? How much of your life have you been thinking was at your disposal?
3. What does the pattern of the world look like in relation to loving? Sacrifice? Inter-connectedness? Service? Encouragement?
4. Read John 15:12-17. What criteria exists to be called a friend of God?
5. Read I Corinthians 12:12-27. Describe what your life would look like if those in your Christian community worked in harmony as a body. How would things have to change?
6. Discuss the quote by Dr. Larry Crabb: “We’ve made a terrible mistake! For most of this century we have wrongly defined soul wounds as psychological disorders and delegated their treatment to trained specialists. Damaged psyches aren’t the problem. The problem is disconnected souls. What we need is connection. What we need is a healing community.”



Ministry

7. How difficult is it for you to let down your guard and let your spiritual family minister to your needs?



Evangelism

8. Read John 13:34-35. Who do you know who is hurting or in need of acceptance into God's family? Write down their name on a piece of paper and place it in a prominent place when you get home.

9. What can you do to show a God-like love to that person this week?



Worship

10. As you take turns reading Psalm 17, praise God for your special part in His plan and family, as well as your individual victories this past week.

11. Close in prayer for those hurting within your group, along with the names of those who will be the recipient of your concentrated attention this week.

Family Responsibilities



Fellowship

1. What were your family responsibilities growing up?



Discipleship

2. Read I Corinthians 8:1-13. Talk about a present-day example of a gray issue that could cause another Christian to stumble.
3. According to verse 12, how seriously do Paul and God take your decisions and treatment of your Christian family?
4. What is the level of commitment to another person we see reflected in verse 13?
5. Read Romans 14:1-4. What are some disputable matters you struggle to accept others' opinions on?
6. Read Philippians 2:1-7. What are the day-to-day challenges of obeying verses 3-4?



Ministry

7. Read James 3:13-18. What hinders our ministry to each other according to verse 16?
8. What gifts and abilities has God given you to use in the "family"? How can you use them in this small group?



Evangelism

9. Talk about what you can do as a group to get out of your comfort zone and welcome visitors to your church and/or small group. Can you arrive 10 minutes early and look for newcomers who may feel uncomfortable? Can you invite them out to coffee or to your home for a meal?



Worship

10. When we are loving others and fostering authentic community, we are worshipping God! Pray for each other and challenges you will each face this week...as well as those who will be the *recipient* of true community (possibly for the first time)!

More family responsibilities



Fellowship

1. Describe the church you attended while growing up. Describe the one you attend now.



Discipleship

2. Read John 13:1-17. What tasks do you find distasteful? How can Jesus' example encourage us to serve?
3. Is it easier for you to serve or be served?
4. Re-read I Peter 4:7-11 and Romans 12:4-11. What do you think your spiritual gift is?
5. How can your gifts be used in your Christian family?
6. Read I Timothy 3:15. To what is the church compared? Talk about the significance of this comparison.



Ministry

7. Read Acts 2:42-47. How does your small group or house church resemble the church in Acts?
8. What improvements can you make in how you minister to one another?



Evangelism

9. How will your life appear “different” to an unbeliever if you practice the three qualities of service, authenticity and prayer?



Worship

10. Read Ephesians 3:14-21. Use this passage as a closing prayer for your group, personalizing it according to individual needs.

A Dysfunctional Family



Fellowship

1. How can you relate to these church members?
2. Have you ever been on the receiving end of rejection?



Discipleship

3. Read Hebrews 2:11. Who do you find it difficult to accept as *your* brothers?
4. Read Matthew 25:31-46. What criteria do you usually use to determine how you will treat those around you?
5. How would you treat them differently if you knew they were Jesus in disguise?
6. What is your initial reaction to both the blessings and punishments listed in this passage?
7. What surprises do you think you will have when God talks with you about your life?
8. Read Galatians 6:10. Does it surprise you that God places special emphasis on how we treat believers? Why or why not?



Ministry

9. Next week is our Celebration Session, so make plans for what you would like to contribute for a shared meal. Feel free to bring a game...and *friends* or *anyone* in need of the benefits of this small group!



Evangelism

10. Who are those in your circle of influence who others see as unworthy, unlovable, or unacceptable? Write down as many names as you can. Take a few minutes to silently pray for ways you think God would like to use *you* to demonstrate His love for them.



Worship

11. Since acting like a healthy family is a form of worship to God, pray with and for each other and the challenges each member faces with unity and conflict resolution.

Celebration week...

Remember, there's no video this week. You're supposed to be celebrating.

Acts 2:46-47 (The Message)

They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.

Surrendered Purpose



Fellowship

1. What is most painful for you to surrender to God?
2. Talk about a time you gave something up and got more in return.



Discipleship

3. Re-read Romans 6:13. What changes will surrendering your body to God bring to your life?
4. Read Romans 12:1. What is our motivation for surrender? Why does God value it?
5. How does the trustworthiness of a person affect your willingness to surrender to him/her? How does this relate to your spiritual life?
6. How is pride related to an unwillingness to surrender? Read Isaiah 14:11-15.
7. Discuss the quote, “It is when we try to be God that we end up most like Satan, who desired the same thing.”
8. How would you respond to the assertion that, “If you don’t surrender to Christ, you surrender to chaos”?
9. Read Luke 9:23-24. Have you seen a correlation between surrender and effectiveness in the lives of those you know?



Ministry



Worship

10. What answers to prayer have you received in the last month? As you close in prayer in a moment, be sure to praise our faithful God for His watchful care.
11. Have you surrendered your life to Him? If not, allow your small group to provide the greatest ministry and gift they can give and pray with you today!
12. Minister to each other by sharing your particular struggles to surrender, and then pray for each member.

Strength in Numbers



Fellowship

1. Let's compare our support system with that of geese! Try to give an example from *your life* with each lesson they provide:
 - When I've shared a common goal/direction, I've drawn strength from others and reached my goals more quickly and easily.
 - When I've been headed toward a goal and stayed in formation, I've been able to give and accept help from others.
 - It's been great to be able to share leadership and responsibilities. I didn't burn out.
 - In groups where I've been encouraged, the production was greater.
 - People have stood by me when I'm weak and helped me find my way again.



Discipleship

2. Read I Corinthians 10:16-17. To what is the body of Christ compared in this passage? Why is this significant? What responsibility does this carry?
3. Read Romans 12:4-5. How does the fact that each member is distinct and unique pose challenges as a family? What are the practical advantages of diversity?
4. What significance does the second half of verse 5 bring to your self-esteem? To your sense of freedom and independence?



Ministry

5. Divide up some or all of the following verses. Brainstorm as a small group practical expressions of ways to “help” the body of Christ.

Acts 11:29; 18:27; 20:35; Romans 16:2; I Corinthians 12:28; I Corinthians 16:6; II Corinthians 1:11; II Corinthians 9:2; Philippians 4:3; I Thessalonians 5:14; I Timothy 5:16; Titus 3:13; Hebrews 6:10.



Evangelism

6. Who do you know who is outside the flock and flying alone without support? Share their names and commit to opening a conversation with them this week, demonstrating the community available to them.



Worship

7. Pray for the names listed in #6 and for those struggling and in need of encouragement in your group.

8. Read Romans 11:33-36 aloud as we close our session for today.

Unified Purpose



Fellowship

1. Do you tend to work better alone or in a group?
2. How has a friend “tickled” or “spurred you on” into doing something positive this week?



Discipleship

3. Read John 17:20-23. What was the unity like between the Father and the Son?
What is the ultimate picture of “one-ness” Christ paints for us?
Why does Jesus say this unity is so important? What’s at stake if we show disunity?
4. Read Romans 15:1-7. What modern day examples can you think of that demonstrate “bearing with the failings of the weak”?
Where do verses 4 and 5 point us to get encouragement for this difficult task?
5. Compare Romans 15:1 with James 4:3. How do proper motives play a part in answered prayer?
6. Read Ephesians 4:3. What extent must we go to for unity? What will obedience to this verse look like in your family? Church? Workplace?
7. Read Ephesians 4:13. What is a prerequisite to spiritual maturity?



Ministry



Evangelism

8. What will you do this week to help restore unity to a broken or fragmented relationship in your circle of influence?



Worship

9. Close with a time of prayer for each member and the upcoming challenges of the week. Remember to pray throughout the week for the needs mentioned!

Here--let me!



Fellowship

1. When have you felt blessed while doing something for someone else?
2. Who is the most giving person you know?



Discipleship

3. Read Matthew 6:1-4. What principles for giving do you see here?

Which do you find more difficult: the act of generous giving or not taking pride in your giving?

4. Re-read Matthew 5:38-48. List some possible scenarios from everyday life regarding verses 38-42. How would God have you respond?
5. Read Luke 6:27-36. What lesson and encouragement regarding God's kindness can we glean from verses 35-36?

How does obedience to verse 30 challenge you? Free you?

6. Read Matthew 10:8 and John 15:1-17. Why must we first receive God's gift of love to us?

Talk about the word "remain" from John 15:4. If you are to "remain" with the Vine, how will your life need to change this week? What things might you have to give up for a closer connection to God?



Ministry



Evangelism

7. Discuss the Amy Carmichael quote: “One can give without loving, but one cannot love without giving.” Who do you know who needs to see God’s generosity through *you* this week?

8. What resources has God put at your disposal that you sense Him wanting you to share?



Worship

9. Read together John 14:15-27. End with a time of *prayer* for each other, those you will endeavor to love this week, and *praise* to God Who gives His Holy Spirit as our Guide!

Called to be a disciple



Fellowship

1. Have you ever played a team sport? Describe that experience.
2. Describe a teacher or coach who played an important role in your life.



Discipleship

3. Read Mark 4:33-34. How did Jesus relate to His disciples? How does this encourage you?
4. What life situation, occupation or commitments do you find yourself in now? How do you think God is calling you as His disciple?
5. If you fully commit to being His disciple, how can you envision your life and/or priorities changing?
6. Read Luke 9:62. How is half-hearted dedication to His cause an insult to God?
7. Read Matthew 8:18-22. What do you think Jesus meant in verse 22?

What things clamor for attention in your life? How do you feel your Teacher wants you to prioritize your time and affection?



Evangelism

8. Read Mark 1:16-20. What was Jesus' goal for the disciples (verse 17)?

Who will you spend time with this week who doesn't know Christ personally?

How can you envision God using *you* to be a "fisher of men"?

9. What one step will you take this week to reach out and "cast a line" to that person?



Worship

10. Read Matthew 11:28-30. As you pray for each other and those you know who are unsaved, thank God for the *rest* and *peace* that being His disciple brings!

The cost of discipleship



Fellowship

1. What New Year's Resolution have you made in the past? Did you reach your goal?
2. What price did you have to pay along the way?



Discipleship

3. Read Matthew 8:18-22 and Mark 1:40-45. What costs do we see Jesus paying in these verses in order to be obedient to His Father?
4. Read Matthew 10:28-39. Talk about both the costs and rewards of discipleship.

What costs do you need to be more willing to pay?

5. Talk about the statement: "Salvation is the only free gift that will cost you the rest of your life."
6. Read Philippians 3:7, 8. What did Paul consider to be the ultimate goal of life?
7. Discuss the quote: "The medal, once attained, minimizes every cost and self-sacrifice."



Ministry

8. Remember, next week is your “Celebration week”. Be sure and make some special plans.



Evangelism

9. Last time, we prayed and committed to spending time with someone who is not a disciple of Jesus Christ. Talk about your opportunities and how you can follow up on them this week!



Worship

10. Read Psalm 23...then spend time praising God for His faithful guidance, discipleship, comfort and promised blessings.

11. Pray for each other as we commit ourselves more fully to being disciples of the King of Kings.

Walking with Purpose
Session twenty one

Celebration week...

Remember, there's no video this week. You're supposed to be celebrating.

Acts 2:46-47 (The Message)

They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.

The Power of Prayer



Fellowship

1. Does having a consistent prayer time come naturally to you or do you struggle for consistency?
2. What time of the day do you find it easiest to meet with God?



Ministry

3. Read Galatians 6:9, 10. How is prayer the greatest gift we can give another?



Evangelism



Worship

4. Like the African converts, we all need someone to nudge us if “the grass grows on our path.” Team up with an accountability partner for the week. Pray for each other and check in mid-week to encourage your partner in a consistent prayer life.
5. Take 5 minutes to pray for each of the following:
 - Leaders in government
 - Persecuted Christians around the world
 - Missionaries
 - Unsaved people you’d like to see join this group
 - Your personal commitment to prayer
 - Praise for His forthcoming answers and perfect plans

Spiritual Starvation



Fellowship

1. Describe a time when instructions were vital to your success.
2. Have wrong directions ever caused you to lose your way?



Discipleship

3. Read Psalm 119:89-112. Name all the benefits you see from feasting on God's Word.
4. Read Deuteronomy 11:18-21. How proactive were the Israelites commanded to be with God's Law? How do you think this affected their daily life?
5. What schedule changes did you make this last week to incorporate more time for prayer in your life?
6. When do you foresee your best time for study will be?



Ministry

7. What is one distraction you expect to draw you away from your purpose? Brainstorm within your small group on how to guard against it.



Evangelism

8. How will following God's instructions change the way you interact with those who don't know Him?



Worship

9. Close with a prayer of thanksgiving for God's Word and how it was a guide and/or instrument of conviction to you this last week.

Digging Deeper



Fellowship

1. How has God's Word provided what you needed this week?
2. What were the biggest challenges you faced in setting aside time for study?



Discipleship

3. Read John 5:37-39. How is study of the Scriptures not synonymous with knowing God? What does true discipleship require?
4. Read II Timothy 2:15. How would you rate yourself right now as a diligent workman and student of the Bible?

What steps will you take this week to improve this "grade"?

5. Read Hebrews 5:11-14. How is it conceivable that a person who has been a Christian for years can still be "immature" in the faith?

What are some practical steps to insure growth?

6. Commit to consistency this week, and to buying an inexpensive notebook for study.



Evangelism

7. How is a love for the unsaved a sign of spiritual maturity?
8. How have you seen the Bible transform lives you thought were beyond help?



Worship

9. Take some time to pray for each other and your schedules...as you worship God for the transforming power of His Word!

Following in Holiness



Fellowship

1. How did you feel stronger this past week after studying God's Word?
2. What areas of weakness in your "walls" did God point out?



Discipleship

3. As you endeavor to live a holy life, how do you feel separated and estranged from the world?

Read John 15:18-21. What comfort do these verses give?

4. Read I Peter 2:9-11. How is a royal heir called to a higher standard?
5. Memorize Romans 12:9 together.

What *one change* will obedience to this verse require of you this week?

6. Re-read James 1:22-27. Focusing on verse 22, what are you challenged to take from your "head" to your "heart"?

What are 2 things you can do this week to keep yourself from being "polluted" by the world? (verse 27)

7. Read James 4:4-5. What choice does verse 4 require us to make?



Evangelism



Ministry

8. Talk about the phrase, “Be *in* the world but not *of* the world.”

What is the key to obeying Matthew 28:19 and James 4:4 simultaneously?



Worship

9. This is a great time to share the stories of what God has saved you from! How did Christ draw you to Himself?

How does He continue to lead, guide and save you?

10. Spend some time praising Him and committing to *immediate obedience*.

The Price tag of Holiness



Fellowship

1. What is your “rating system” or criteria deeming a television program or movie “acceptable”?

What would you have done in the above situation with a neighbor?

2. Describe a time this week when the Holy Spirit challenged you to a new level of holiness.



Discipleship

3. Read Philippians 1:9-11 and 2:15. What do you think are the keys to blameless living in a perverse world?

4. Read Colossians 3:1-10. Formulate an action plan for personal holiness from these verses.

5. Read Hebrews 12:14-28. What would you say to the person who dismisses sin with the comment, “Oh, well...God will forgive me!”?

How do you reconcile the two truths that God is both “a consuming fire” and “full of mercy and love”?

6. Read the following verses:

Romans 6:11-13

Ephesians 4:29, 30

Ephesians 5:8-11

Matthew 18:7-9

Philippians 2:12

What extreme measures can you see yourself needing to take to guard against unholiness?



Evangelism

7. How can you echo Isaiah's words in Isaiah 6:1-8?
8. Read I Corinthians 5:9-13. Who is God impressing you to pray for who currently needs a glimpse of the holiness of God?



Worship

9. When we are surrounded by ungodliness, what a relief to meditate on God's ultimate victory! Enjoy the words of hope found in Revelation 21:1-8.
10. Close with a time of prayer for those you listed in #6, a God-sized abhorrence of evil, and revelation through your assignment this week!

The Tools of the Master



Fellowship

1. However you feel most comfortable, talk about the 3 areas you examined this past week: actions, words and thoughts. What areas did God show you need some work?



Discipleship

2. Read 2 Corinthians 3:18. What is God doing right now in your life to transform you into His likeness?

3. Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-11. How can you relate to the problems of the early Christians?

4. Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. How are our problems described? How are our feelings about them not necessarily in accordance with their usefulness?

5. Re-read Hebrews 12:4-11. How can you relate to verse 11?

How does the Father's discipline resemble that of an earthly father? How does it differ?

6. Read James 1:2-4. How have you seen your perseverance grow through trials?



Evangelism



Ministry

7. Talk about next week's Celebration Week and who you would love to see get involved and benefit from Walking in Purpose!



Worship

8. Rejoice in how God deals with your tears! Read the following:

Psalm 56:8

Psalm 126:5

Isaiah 25:8

9. Close in prayer for each other and your individual trials and growth.

Celebration week...

Remember, there's no video this week. You're supposed to be celebrating.

Acts 2:46-47 (The Message)

They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.

Something worth Sharing



Fellowship

1. Who first told you about Jesus? What happened?



Discipleship

2. Using the illustration of the “thief”: Imagine if the old woman refused her son’s sacrifice, how could you relate that to someone today?
3. Review the Romans Road to salvation and discuss any confusing areas in your small group:

Romans 3:23
Romans 6:23
Romans 5:8
Romans 10:9
Romans 10:13
Romans 5:1
Romans 8:1
Romans 8:38-39

4. Read I Peter 3:15. What is the most common question you are asked that is an “open door” to share the Good News of Jesus?



Evangelism

5. The Romans Road is easy enough for youth to do! Get comfortable sharing your faith by practicing on your family! When you return home have them mark *their* Bibles as you lead them along.
6. Think of 5 people you will commit to pray for during the rest of this series.
7. Begin to prepare your testimony for next week by thinking about your life *before* you met Christ.



Worship

8. Spend some time worshipping our Wonderful Savior, Redeemer and Justifier!
9. Close in prayer as you pray for the exciting week to come!

Speak Up!



Fellowship

1. Last week's homework was to begin preparing your testimony. Take a few minutes to share how Christ has changed your life!
2. Have you ever regretted a "lost opportunity"?



Discipleship

3. Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-20. How does God make his appeal to the world today?

How can the first part of verse 16 embolden us to speak up for Christ?

What's the life-changing news we have the privilege of sharing (verse 19)?

4. Read I Peter 3:15. How are you prepared now to share your faith?

What further preparations do you need to make?



Ministry

5. Sometimes *we* don't see the changes Christ has made in us as well as our friends do! How have you seen God working in each other?



Evangelism

6. Who is the person who will require the most courage to testify to?
7. Continue developing your testimony. This week, concentrate on the actual *salvation experience*: when did you reach out and “touch Jesus’ robe”? What did it take for you to take that “leap of faith”?



Worship

8. Read Psalm 34:1-10, thanking God for His answers to your pain!
9. Pray for each other and the courage (and opportunities!) to speak of His incredible power and love this week!

Contagious Christianity



Fellowship

1. Discuss part 2 of your testimony: how did God bring you to the point when you accepted His gift of forgiveness?



Discipleship

2. Read I Peter 2:12. Do you think Christians are held to a higher standard among those outside the church?

What is going to have the most impact on those watching your life?

3. Discuss this quote by Howard Hendricks: "In the midst of a generation screaming for answers, Christians are stuttering."
4. Read I Peter 3:1, 2. How can Paul's advice to wives apply to all believers?
5. Read I Corinthians 16:9; II Corinthians 2:12; and Colossians 4:3.

What do all 3 passages have in common?



Evangelism

6. Your testimony will be complete with your story of the *difference* Christ has made in your life. Put all 3 parts together (Before Christ, salvation experience, and difference) and practice sharing it at least once this week!



Worship

7. Talk about the “doors” God has opened up to you these last few weeks. To whom have you been “contagious”?

8. Close in prayer as you praise Him for what He’s done and will continue to do!

“Go Where?!!”



Fellowship

1. Have you ever echoed the words: “What in the world am I doing *here*?”
2. Have you ever been *intimidated* to share your faith? Describe your experience.



Discipleship

3. Read Luke 4:18-19. What commands do we see Jesus fulfilling in these verses?
What kinds of bondage do you find people in?
4. Read Matthew 28:19, 20. What limits does God set on places we should not go?
What are your specific commands? How can you fulfill them in your life situation?
5. Do you feel the Holy Spirit assigning you a mission you feel neither willing nor qualified to fulfill?



Evangelism

6. Talk about the spiritually “sick” you have been praying for and sharing your testimony with. Has God opened doors of opportunity? Have you walked through them?
7. If anyone in your group hasn’t had the opportunity to share their testimony, do so now.



Worship

8. Read Psalm 98 as you rejoice in His right hand and holy arm, that is working salvation for Him!
9. Pray for each other as you walk in obedience to God this week...*wherever* that may lead!

Purpose in focus



Fellowship

1. Answer honestly:

What is your #1 goal here on earth?

What do you hope people remember you for?



Discipleship

2. Read I John 2:15-17 and I Timothy 6:10. What things crowd out our love for God?

How can “good things” steal our focus?

3. Read Psalm 90:12. How will numbering our days give us wisdom?

4. Discuss this quote by John Bevere: “The most effective way for the enemy to blind us is to cause us to focus on ourselves.”

5. Read Mark 12:28-31. What does God prioritize?

6. Do you have a hard time saying “no” to worthwhile causes? To pressure from people?

Read Matthew 12:46-50. How does Jesus stand up against pressure to do what people expected of Him?

7. Re-read Revelation 2:1-7. How can you relate to the Church in Ephesus?



Evangelism

8. How is the command of Mark 12:31 related to your concern for the lost?



Worship

9. Pray for each other: single-minded devotion and strength for the week to come!

10. End your time with a focus on Him by reading Psalm 33:12-22.

20/20 vision



Fellowship

1. If you could ask God to accomplish anything through you, what would it be?



Discipleship

2. Discuss the quote: “For lack of vision the people perish.”
3. Read Ephesians 3:20, 21. Whose reputation of greatness is “on the line” according to verse 21?
4. Read and discuss the following verses:

Numbers 23:19
I Kings 6:12
Psalm 138:8
II Thessalonians 1:11
5. Read Numbers 11:21-23. How have you unconsciously limited the arm of the Lord?
6. How does fear of failure influence vision?
7. Discuss the quote by Abraham Lincoln: “I’m not so concerned you have fallen but that you rise.”
8. Re-read I Chronicles 4:9, 10. How would you like God to bless you and enlarge your territory?



Evangelism

9. Talk about next week's Celebration Week...and those you have been praying for and sharing your testimony with! Invite them to join you for this time of fellowship...**and** for the next series!



Worship

10. Read James 5:13-18, as you pray for each members' needs and purpose-filled life.

Rejoice in what God has done and will continue to do!

Celebration week...

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