

SMALL GROUPS PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

Our values: Our values exist to help us understand our vision for our Small Groups. We want to be intentional in applying our values within our Small Groups.

Devoted to Fellowship: We want to create a welcoming atmosphere; a place that is safe and caring. We want our groups to be relational, helping members grow in their walk with God.

Devoted to the Word of God: We want to read, study, and memorize the word of God through our studies. The word of God is at the center of our life, and the truths that are found in the Bible challenge us to steps of obedience.

Devoted to the Mission: Fully devoted followers of Christ MAKE fully devoted followers of Christ. This is done by investing time in others and modeling our love of Christ to our city.

STORY TELLERS

HIS STORY

SESSION 1

JOHN 3:16, ROMANS 10:9

MAIN POINT

A person experiences salvation by hearing and believing the Gospel message.

FELLOWSHIP / ACCOUNTABILITY- 5 MIN

Can you tell the Gospel story in one to two sentences?

Read John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

VIDEO TEACHING/DISCUSSION-35 MIN

Watch the video segment for Session 1.

Discuss at least three of the following questions:

If the words "evangelism" and the "Gospel" mean "Good News," what is so "Good" about this "News"?

Based solely on John 3:16, how can you be sure that God loves you?

What does believing/trusting in Jesus mean to you?

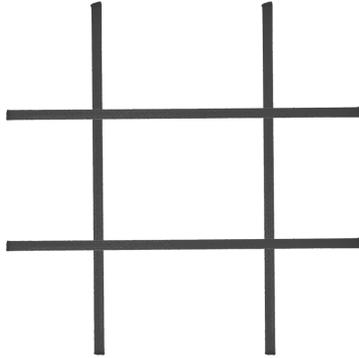
Read Romans 10:9: "If you declare with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

According to this verse, how can you be saved?

What would it look like in your life if you begin living by the "No- ATM Principle"?

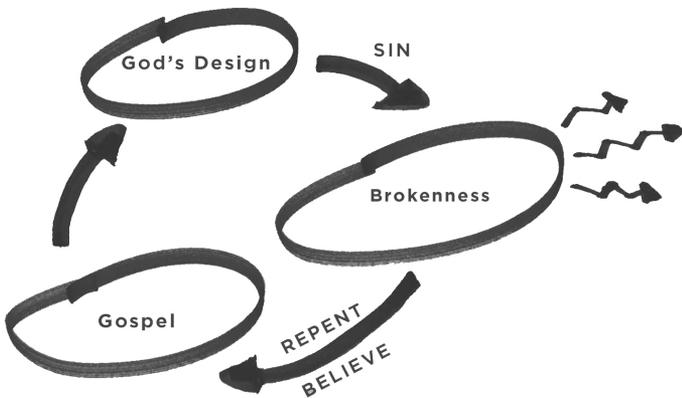
APPLICATION- 15 MIN

1. To help you identify those around you, who God is preparing to hear the Gospel, please fill in the diagram below:



Place your name in the middle square, write names of the people you live near, work with, and socialize with. Begin praying for these names this week and how God can open the door for you to share the Gospel with them.

In your small group, practice drawing the 3 Circle Method of sharing the Gospel.



Practice your drawing below:

2. Read and Memorize this week:

John 3:16

Romans 10:9

PRAYER-5 MIN

Close with prayer.

Pray to have:

1. God's eyes to see the open doors to share
2. God's heart to have compassion for our not-yet-saved friends
3. God's lips to speak Words of Life when we have the opportunity

PROMISE

Promise God that you will open your mouth when you see an open door. When God shows us His Hand moving, it is our invitation to get involved with what He is already doing.

STORY TELLERS

MY STORY SESSION 2 1 PETER 2:9

MAIN POINT

God has given you a new identity and purpose.

FELLOWSHIP / ACCOUNTABILITY-10 MIN

As your group time begins, review last week's discussion.

Did you memorize the two scriptures from last week?

Did God open any doors with those you listed in last week's diagram? Please share your experience.

Did you say no to the "ATM " this week? Share your experience.

Read 1 Peter 2:9: "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praise of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

VIDEO TEACHING/DISCUSSION-35 MIN

Watch the video segment for Session 2.

Discuss at least three of the following questions:

Have you ever considered the biblical meaning of the word "chosen" or "adopted"? How does this help you better understand God's love for you?

Have you considered what it means to be "hunted/pursued" by God?

Have you ever thought of yourself as Holy? How does the biblical meaning of "being separate, created for a purpose" give new meaning to your life?

What does it mean to say that a friend needs to, "belong before they can believe"?

What should you do if your friend is still "a few more coffees away" from Jesus?

APPLICATION-10 MIN

1. Write out your story in three parts, in two to three minutes:

Your life before Christ: _____

How you met Christ: _____

Your life since Christ: _____

2. Practice telling your story.

PRAYER-10 MIN

Close with prayer.

Pray to have:

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STORY TELLERS

TELLING MY STORY

SESSION 3

JOHN 11:35, JOHN 11:41

MAIN POINT

Jesus is the only One who can give new life. We are called to be faithful to compassionately share the Gospel and let Jesus do what only He can do.

FELLOWSHIP / ACCOUNTABILITY-10 MIN

Pair up and share your story. Use the three points: your life before Christ, how you met Christ and your life since Christ. Keep it to two to three minutes long.

Read John 11:35-41. "**Jesus wept**". Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Jesus once more, deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. "**Take away the stone,**" he said. "But Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." The Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that **if you believe, you will see the glory of God?**" So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I know that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." When he said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "**Lazarus, come out!**" The dead man came out..."

VIDEO TEACHING/DISCUSSION-35 MIN

Watch the video segment for Session 3.

Discuss at least three of the following questions:

When was the last time that you were brought to tears because someone that you care about is separated from Christ?

What are some of the "stones" that we have placed in Jesus' path, preventing Him from bringing new life to people in our world?

Why is it easier to "do" rather than "believe"?

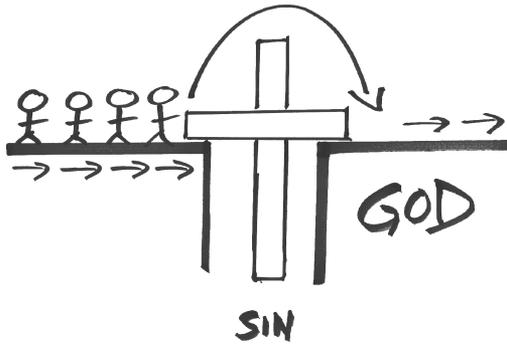
Jesus raised Lazarus. If raising people from the dead (physically and spiritually) is Jesus' role, what is our role in this process?

We talked about throwing out a "golden nugget" to turn the conversation to spiritual things. Give some examples.

Can you think of a "person of peace" or "low hanging fruit" currently in your life? What should be your next step be with him/her?

APPLICATION-15 MIN

1. Pair up in your small group. Study the Bridge Illustration below.



2. Practice drawing and telling the Bridge Illustration.

PRAYER-10 MIN

Close with prayer.

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STORY TELLERS

TELLING OUR STORY SESSION 4 LUKE 15

MAIN POINT

It is important to know that there are times when we share the Gospel individually, but there are also times when we share it as a group. We should be able to work as a team in an evangelistic effort.

FELLOWSHIP / ACCOUNTABILITY-10 MIN

Share your experience using the Bridge or 3 Circle illustrations.

VIDEO TEACHING/DISCUSSION-35 MIN

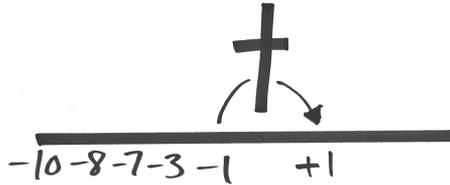
Watch the video segment for Session 4.

Discuss at least three of the following questions:

In the scripture passage, we read about three different kinds of lost people. Can you identify some of those people in your world?

We also see three kinds of people who go searching for the lost: the widow, the shepherd, and the father. With whom do you relate?

Considering the “scale of lostness” that was discussed, where has God used you most powerfully in the past (-1, -5 or are you someone closer to -10)?



How could you best use the "Falling Plates" video to share the Gospel in your world?

APPLICATION-15 MIN

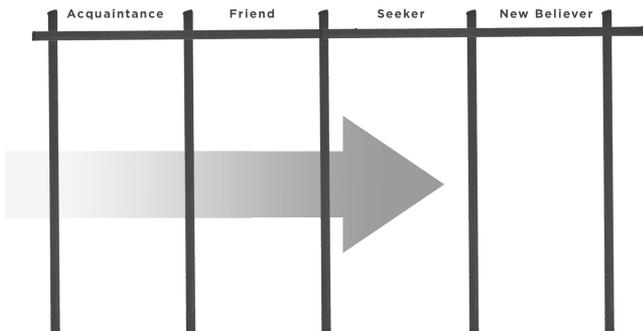
Prepare and fill in a prayer chart as a group. Use the following list as a guide.

Acquaintance = someone you know and want to invite

Friend = someone with whom you have had at least one spiritual conversation

Seeker = a someone who is actively seeking God

New believer=someone who recently believed the Gospel



As a small group, pray weekly for people on your chart, and watch as God is faithful to move them closer to the cross.

PRAYER-10 MIN

Close with prayer.

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STORY TELLERS

MATTHEW PARTY SESSION 5

MAIN POINT

Plan your own small group “Matthew Party.”

Ideas for Matthew Parties:

BBQ/picnic

Games/sports

Movie night

Spa party

Neighborhood party

Cooking/supperclub/progressive dinner

Fishing event

Serving the community (ex: feeding the homeless/habitat for humanity)

Scavenger hunt

INCLUDE:

Ice- breaker for introductions

Nametags

TAKE AWAY:

Goodie bag with church invite cards

PRAYER

Pray before the meal and ask for prayer requests.

