



6 Week
GROUP GUIDE



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SERIES

The Gospel is the Good News about Jesus - but that Good News comes with an expectation: 'Follow me. Walk my way.'

When we walk His way, our Head, Heart, Hands and Feet - they become His.

When we walk His way, the product is transformation. We become something new.

So join us as we discover what it means to 'Walk His Way' in a life changing revolution that we call Discipleship.

OUR MISSION

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.
Jesus the Messiah

OUR VISION

To bring the hope of Jesus to all people.
 We will do this by
Sharing the Gospel,
Connecting them to the Church,
Equipping them for Ministry, and
Multiplying disciples.

OUR VALUES

As we follow Jesus, we live out His values:
Biblical Truth
Real Relationships
Inspired Worship
Selfless Service
Spirit-Led Living

Ground Rules

Here are some guidelines for your gatherings.

Confidentiality

If the group is going to move towards authenticity, then what's shared in the group should stay in the group (note: for situations that you are not qualified to speak into, use a referral to Cornerstone Counseling).

Don't Rescue and Don't Fix

Let people openly share without trying to solve their problems. Only give advice if they request it.

No Crosstalk

People feel valued when we listen. The opposite is true as well: people will feel devalued if they are constantly interrupted. If someone has the floor, no other conversations should be happening.

Give Everyone a Chance to Share

Everyone has something to contribute and everyone should feel heard. Don't be too quick to provide all of the answers. Give others space to share.

Use Humor Responsibly

Our conversation should build up rather than tear down. Humor can be a great thing provided it is not used as the expense of others.

Use 'I' Statements

Groups are an opportunity for self-reflection. We should be quick to reflect on how what we are studying should shape us personally, and slow to tell others how it should shape them.

Fight for the Relationship

Real relationships only thrive when we commit to 'fight' for the relationship. We will not hide from conflict or disagreement, but will instead discuss them in an open and healthy way.

Leader Guidelines

Thank you for taking the time to invest in others by leading a group. As a leader, your task is to create an environment where real relationships can thrive. Here are some things to keep in mind as you do that:

Multiply.

The mission of the church is to multiply disciples. Groups are one of the environments where this occurs. You are involved in the discipleship of each person in your group. We ask that each of our group leaders has someone who they are equipping to be a disciple-maker.

Create a safe environment.

When we say 'safe', we mean an environment where participants can freely share without feeling belittled or that what they share will get spread beyond the group. When we say 'safe', we also mean a group where participants can encounter Jesus and His plan for their life.

Recognize that your group is unique.

This booklet is designed to be a general guide, but every group is unique. So when you're planning, take into account what does and doesn't work for your group and shape the session to their personalities and needs.

Review the ground rules.

Periodically, remind your group about the ground rules for the group.

Ask lots of questions.

Engaging leaders draw participants into the discussion. Ask many questions and lead your group into self-discovery. Follow the 70/30 rule: your goal should be to talk for less than 30% of the time. If you're going over that, then people in your group are going to feel limited in their ability to engage!

Get feedback.

Improve your group by asking others for feedback.

Seek wise council.

There are some questions you won't be able to answer and some situations you aren't trained to handle. That's OK! Know who your wise council is (whether a coach, minister, or another disciple-maker) and turn to them in your time of need.

For more on this topic, check out *Servant-Leadership Training* and the *CCW Group Leader Training 2.0* resource on RightNow Media.

Before the Session

As a group leader, it's essential to be prepared. Before the group session:

Pray. God is the one doing the transformation.

Read the Bible passage. Write down questions and observations.

Preview the session guide. Highlight important questions to ask and add your own.

Tap into study resources. Check outside sources to expand your understanding of the topic.

During the Session

Share: Take time to review the content from last week. Use this time to do a life check-up, asking about prayer requests and challenge accountability from the previous session.

Transition: Ask an Icebreaker question and introduce the topic (we give you an example on each talk sheet).

Read It: Read through the Scripture passage. If it's a larger section of scripture, break it into smaller sections and ask questions throughout.

Talk About It: There are two types of questions that help your group digest what you're reading:

Review: These questions help your group retell the story in their own words.

Reflect: These questions help your group to bridge the gap between the Biblical text and their own life.

Apply It: Apply what you have learned by asking the *React* questions. As a group leader, it will be your responsibility to help participants set specific goals for how they will apply these truths to their lives (we call these *Challenges*).

Pray Together: Find creative ways to engage your group in prayer.

After the Session

Follow Up: Be present with group members throughout the week by: (1) Reminding them of their application/challenge commitments, (2) Checking in on needs and prayer requests and (3) Finding opportunities to do life together.

Input Group Attendance: Fill out your Group attendance in the ChurchTeams email that you receive.

If you run into issues or need help navigating challenging circumstances in your group, contact me and I would be honored to help out.

Joshua McGrew
josh@ccw.church
(352) 596-1388 (extension 227)

CCW.Church - Walk His Way

THE CALL TO FOLLOW

Icebreaker

Open the conversation with a fun question:

- When has following someone or something gotten you into trouble?

Transition

Describe the goal by saying something like:

In this series, we're looking at what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. This Sunday, we looked at Acts 2 and the call to follow. During our Group, we will take a look at some of Jesus' teachings on the topic of following Him.

Talk About It

Read: **Luke 5:1 - 11, 27 - 32**

Review:

- (1 - 5) What did Jesus ask Simon to do? Why did Simon struggle with this request?
- (6 - 7) What happened when Simon let down the nets?
- (8 - 9) How did Simon react to this miraculous catch?
- (10 - 11) What was the new task that Jesus was going to give these men? What might this mean?
- (27 - 28) How did Levi react to the request that Jesus made?
- (29 - 30) What criticism did the Pharisees level at Jesus?
- (31 - 32) According to Jesus, who was it that He came to call?

Reflect:

- What do you think these original disciples thought that Jesus was calling them to?

How do you think they felt about this invitation?

- What challenges do you think that they faced in responding to His invitation?
- If it's not through a face-to-face request, how might Jesus call people to follow Him today?
- How has the call to follow Jesus been watered down in our day and age in comparison to what we've seen in the 1st Century?
- Why is the initial choice to 'follow' so very important in discipleship?

React:

- When and where did you feel the call to follow Jesus? What was your reaction?
- What barriers have you experienced in responding to His call?
- On a scale of 1 to 100, how invested are you in following Jesus? What parts of your life do you feel that you're holding back?
- *A disciple is someone who is Following Jesus as Lord, Living in Surrender to the Spirit, Connected to His Church, and is Committed to His Mission of Multiplication. In which of these four areas do you need to grow?*

Pray Together

THE COST TO FOLLOW

Icebreaker

Open the conversation with a fun question:

- What is the costliest thing that you have ever given up?

Transition

Describe the goal by saying something like:

Answering the call to follow Jesus always has a cost. Just like the fishermen left their nets and Levi left his career as a tax collector, the path of discipleship will call us to surrender as well. Today we'll be looking at some teachings of Jesus that speak to the cost of discipleship.

Talk About It

Read: **Luke 9:18 - 27, 57 - 62**

Review:

- (18) What question did Jesus ask His disciples? Why do you think He made this ask?
- (19 - 20) How did the disciples respond to Jesus' question of identity?
- (21 - 22) Why did Jesus ask the disciples to stay silent about His true identity?
- (23 - 24) According to Jesus, what would be the cost of following Him? What does it mean to 'take up the cross'?
- (26) What is the consequence of denying Jesus' identity?
- (57 - 58) What cost did Jesus identity to the first man who said that he would follow?
- (59 - 60) What was the cost for the second?
- (61 - 62) What was the cost for the third?

Reflect:

- Why might it be important to have a clear understanding of the identity of Jesus? What are some false identities that have been given to Jesus?
- What does 'bearing the cross' look like? (NOTE: The cross is about the immediate cost of following Jesus - not about bad things that have occurred during your life) How might you explain this idea to someone who has never heard of the cross?
- Why might someone have 'shame' in knowing Jesus and His words?
- Was Jesus unfair to the three men of the second passage?
- What are some reasons that people give for not following Jesus today?

React:

- Who is Jesus to you?
- What has been the cost of discipleship in your own life?
- What excuses have you given to hold back on fully following Jesus? What would it look like to surrender one of those areas in your life this week?

Challenge: Write your own 'confession' of who Jesus is. Be clear about who He is to you.

Pray Together

HEAD TRANSFORMATION

Icebreaker

Open the conversation with a fun question:

- What's a lie that you've bought into in the past?

Transition

Describe the goal by saying something like:

Following Jesus is about a whole life transformation. Every part of who we are begins to become something new. When it comes to our head, we need a transformation in how we think.

Talk About It

Read: **Luke 12:13 - 34**

Review:

- (13 - 15) How did Jesus respond to the request from the man in the crowd? What does He warn about greed?
- (16 - 20) Retell the parable in your own words.
- (21) What is the warning that Jesus gives within the parable? What does it mean to be rich towards God?
- (22 - 23) For what reason does Jesus tell His followers they should not worry?
- (24 - 29) What are the specific worries that Jesus addresses in this passage?
- (31 - 32) Where does Jesus say our focus should be instead of food/clothes/etc?
- (32) What does it mean for God to 'give you the Kingdom'?
- (33 - 34) What should be the reaction to encountering this truth about the Kingdom of God?

Reflect:

- What kind of thinking does Jesus warn against in the first story? How do you see this type of thinking show up in the world today?
- What type of thinking does Jesus warn about in the second story? How do you see this type of thinking show up in your life?
- What is the product when our process for thinking about the world is faulty? How have you seen this to be true in your life or in the lives of others?
- What are some common lies that seem to be well-accepted in our culture?
- How does one go about changing their way of thinking?

React:

- What is the biggest transformation that you've seen in your way of thinking since coming to know Jesus?
- Where are you struggling in allowing your way of thinking to be transformed by the Spirit of God?
- What is a specific thought or belief that you need to align with God's Truth?

Challenge: Memorize Romans 12:1 - 2.

Challenge: On a notecard, write down an untruth that you are struggling with. Use the specific words that you find repeated in your head. On the opposite side of the card, write Truth (a Scripture) that counters the untruth found on the other side of the card. Carry this with you. Repeat the Truth words often.

Pray Together

HEART TRANSFORMATION

Icebreaker

Open the conversation with a fun question:

- When was the first time that you experienced being 'heart-broken'? What is your earliest memory of 'overwhelming joy'?

Transition

Describe the goal by saying something like:

As our way of thinking shifts, our emotions and feelings also become subject to the Spirit of God. In this session, we will talk about the Heart transformation that we undergo as we walk His way.

Talk About It

Read: **Luke 18:9 - 30**

Review:

- (9 - 13) Describe the attitude of the Pharisee in this story. Describe the attitude of the tax-collector.
- (14) What is Jesus' point in sharing this story?
- (15 - 16) What were the disciples doing that Jesus countered?
- (16 - 17) What teaching does Jesus give about children? What does it mean to 'receive the Kingdom like a child'?
- (18 - 21) How did Jesus respond to the ruler's question about attaining eternal life?
- (22 - 23) What challenge did Jesus present to the rich ruler? How did the ruler react?
- (24 - 26) What teaching of Jesus shocked His disciples? Why did this surprise them?
- (27) What comfort did Jesus give in response to their shock?
- (28 - 30) According to Jesus, what is the

reward for those who walk His way?

Reflect:

- In these stories, how do you see the Heart of people showing up?
- Why might Jesus place such an emphasis on the heart transformation needed to follow Him?
- Based on what we've read, what sort of Heart is Jesus looking for?
- What emphasis does our world place on the Heart (feelings and emotions)? How might this stand in opposition to the Lordship of Jesus Christ?
- How does someone go about experiencing a heart transformation?

React:

- When have you allowed your Heart to lead you in a direction away from Jesus?
- What emotions or feelings have undergone a transformation since you came to know Jesus?
- What is the 'heart' work that the Spirit of God is doing in your life right now?

Pray Together

HANDS TRANSFORMATION

Icebreaker

Open the conversation with a fun question:

- What is an achievement that you've accomplished that you are proud of?

Transition

Describe the goal by saying something like:

As we follow Jesus, it's not just a Head and Heart transformation that we need. Our Hands need a transformation as well. Our actions - our interactions with others - needs to become something new in Christ.

Talk About It

Read: **Luke 19:1 - 27**

Review:

- (1 - 4) Describe Zaccheus. What did he do to see Jesus?
- (5 - 7) How did Jesus react upon meeting Zaccheus? How did the people respond?
- (8) How does meeting Jesus transform how Zaccheus interacts with others?
- (9 - 10) What lesson does Jesus draw from this encounter?
- (11 - 27) Retell Jesus' parable of the Ten Minas in your own words.
- How did the Master react to the Servants who obeyed and used their resources wisely? How did he react to the Servant who hid his resources?
- What is the point that Jesus is trying to illustrate with the use of this Parable?

Reflect:

- How are the stories of Zaccheus and the Ten Minas related to one another?

- Why is the Master/Servant motif so challenging to our culture today?
- Where do you draw the line when it comes to serving others?
- How would you explain Jesus' big idea to somebody who hadn't read this passage?
- What do you find challenging about the Hands' Transformation that comes with following Jesus?
- What would it look like to begin faithfully honoring Him with your time? Talents? Resources?
- How is service to others intimately linked to following in Jesus' way?

React:

- How have you seen the Spirit transforming your Hands (action) since coming to know Jesus?
- Which of your actions need to undergo a transformation as you follow Jesus? At home? In your free time? At work? Online?
- What does it look like to surrender your Hands to the Lordship of Jesus? What would it look like to serve others more meaningfully?

Challenge: Go out of your way to serve someone else this week. Do the unexpected in your workplace or home - without any sort of recognition or reward. Afterwards, thank God for the opportunity to serve others.

Pray Together

LIVING IT OUT (FEET)

Icebreaker

Open the conversation with a fun question:

- What's the longest journey that you've been on?

Transition

Describe the goal by saying something like:

Our Head, Heart, and Hands are being transformed as we walk His Way. But this process doesn't happen all at once. It's a daily choice to keep in step with Spirit and to live it out wherever our Feet take us.

Talk About It

Read: **Colossians 3:1 - 17**

Review:

- (1 - 2) Where is our heart supposed to be focused? What does it mean to set your mind on 'things above'?
- (3 - 4) Where is our true life found? When will it be revealed?
- (5 - 8) Why are we called to put to death the things of the earthly nature? Does anything on this list surprise you?
- (9 - 10) How is our New Self renewed?
- (11) What does Paul emphasize about our identity in this New Life?
- (12 - 14) What are the qualities that we're meant to develop in this New Life? What is the importance of love in this list?
- (15 - 17) What actions does Paul give to exemplify the inner transformation that occurs through Jesus?

Reflect:

- What does it mean to be dead to the

earthly nature? What parts of that nature do you often see resuscitated in the life of the Church?

- If you were making your own list of qualities that belong to the earthly nature, what would you include?
- Having read Paul's description, what would say are the main identity markers of someone who has a New Life?
- Why is it common to see people mixing together the 'old life' and the 'new life'? What is the product when this happens?

React:

- In what area of your life do you most struggle to walk in the way of Jesus? What is the reason that this is the top of your list? What needs to change to make that a place where your Walk thrives?
- Out of the transformation of Head, Heart, and Hands, which do you find the most challenging?
- Discipleship thrives when you're connected to a Disciple-maker. Who is the Disciple-maker that you can turn to?
- As we wrap up this series on Discipleship, what do you think your next steps to walking in Jesus' Way should look like?

Challenge: Take some time to review the Next Steps at CCW (ccw.church/next-steps). Figure out what that Next Step looks like and then get the accountability you need to take that step.

If you need help, register for *DiscipleMe* at ccw.church/groups.

Pray Together

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

RIGHTNOW MEDIA

Get a free RightNow Media account to get access to thousands of study resources. Some potential resources include:

- **MAKERS Discipleship Series** (Patrick Annotti): Discipleship is at the very heart of the ministry of Jesus. It should be at the heart of the life of the Christian as well! This series has been designed for those that are wanting to fulfill God's plan for their lives of being Disciples of Jesus, and making Disciples of Jesus.

BOOKS TO CHECK OUT

- **Real Life Discipleship** (Jim Putman) Real-Life Discipleship explains what should happen in the life of every Christian and in every small group so that the church becomes an army of believers dedicated to seeing the world saved. With the overriding goal to train disciples who know how to make more disciples, this book offers proven tools and strategies from Real Life Ministries, one of America's fastest-growing churches.
- **Family Discipleship** (Matt Chandler) The most important disciple a parent will make is within their own home, and yet this is the most difficult disciple to make. Family Discipleship by Matt Chandler and Adam Griffin helps readers develop a sustainable rhythm of gospel-centered discipleship through a guided framework focusing on moments of discipleship in 3 key areas: time (intentional time gathering your family around gospel activities or conversations), moments (leveraging opportunities throughout the day), and milestones (celebrating significant life events). Each section provides parents with Scriptures to consider, questions to answer, structures to implement, and ideas to try out as they seek to see Christ formed in their children. Here is a book that begins with the end in mind, offering ideas and examples of what gospel-centered family discipleship looks like, helping parents design their own discipleship plan as they seek to raise children in the love and fear of the Lord.

WEBSITES AND MEDIA

- **ccw.church/next-steps** Helpful resources to help you navigate your Next Step in discipleship.
- **THE BIBLE PROJECT** (www.thebibleproject.com) The Bible Project offers a variety of amazing resources. These videos expand on many of the ideas that we have touched on in this series.
- **discipleship.org** Articles, E-books, Podcasts and other resources on growing in the art of discipleship.