

Small Group Guide

DISCIPLE-MAKING: TEACH THE WORD

The Church at Brook Hills,

Dr. David Platt

April 10, 2011

Acts

This guide is a tool to help you lead your group into spiritual transformation. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering, owning, and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be aspects you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on an aspect of their relationship with God. Your role is to help facilitate this encounter with God in His Word through His Body, not just to complete the guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid group task list.

Relate . . .

Begin your group time by engaging in relational conversations and prayer that may include the following elements:

Welcome—a simple, brief time to greet one another (especially new friends), enjoy refreshments, and make announcements.

Review—a time to review the truths discussed last week and report on how members have had success or frustrations in applying those truths during the week. The leader will want to provide encouragement and shepherding during this time. Periodically, the leader will also want to review the gospel and allow members to share reports about opportunities they've had to share the gospel. Occasionally, the leader will want to revisit the vision for the group and discuss ways to accomplish that vision better.

Prayer—a time of general prayer with the whole group praying for struggles regarding the application of truths, for those with whom the group is sharing the gospel, and for understanding of today's truths.

Reflect . . .

Use the following summary and questions to review this week's message and reflect on its implications in our lives:

Sermon Outline

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One Core Conviction...

- Every disciple is a _____ disciple-maker _____.
 - Going: We _____ share _____ the Word.
 - Baptizing: We _____ show _____ the Word.
 - Teaching: We _____ teach _____ the Word.

One Obvious Conclusion...

- Disciple-making revolves around the _____ Word _____ of God. (Acts 2:41; 4:29, 31; 6:2, 4, 7)
 - By God's grace, we _____ receive _____ God's Word.
 - For God's glory, we _____ reproduce _____ God's Word.

One Important Distinction...

- Some of us are called to teach the Word _____ formally _____. (James 3; Acts 6)
- All of us are commanded to teach the Word _____ relationally _____. (Deut 6:4-9)

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Teach the Word...

- This Word _____ saves _____. (Acts 2:37-38)
 - God's Word awakens _____ conviction _____.
 - People realize the gravity of their _____ need _____.
 - People realize the greatness of His _____ provision _____.
 - God's Word accomplishes _____ conversion _____.
 - Repentance: People _____ turn _____ from sin and self.
 - Faith: People _____ trust _____ in Jesus as Savior and Lord.
- This Word _____ satisfies _____ and _____ sanctifies _____. (Acts 13:7, 12, 42-44, 48-49)
 - Satisfaction: God's Word shows people the _____ glory _____ of Christ.
 - Sanctification: God's Word changes people into the _____ image _____ of Christ. (Acts 20:32)
 - Disciple-making is not about sharing helpful _____ tips _____.
 - Disciple-making is about communicating biblical _____ truth _____.
 - Disciple-making is not about teaching for the sake of _____ information _____.
 - Disciple-making is about teaching for the sake of _____ transformation _____.
- This Word _____ sends _____ and _____ spreads _____. (Acts 19:20)
 - We don't want this Word to stop with us in the _____ church _____.
 - We want this Word to spread through us in the _____ world _____.

Message Summary

God's Word was not intended to merely be received by believers, but is for the reproduction of disciples. Every follower of Christ is meant, called, and equipped to be a disciple-maker. In making disciples, believers share the Word, show the Word, and teach the Word—obviously placing the Word of God at the center of disciple-making. Although some Christ-followers are spiritually gifted and called to teach the Word in formal ways such as preaching, teaching, or lecturing to groups of people, all believers are commanded to teach God's Word to others through their relationships in everyday life. The Word is important because it reveals sin and the power of Christ to save from sin. It also sanctifies believers, transforming them, through the power of the Holy Spirit, into the image of Christ.

Discuss

Use the following questions to review the Head (What does God want me to know?), Heart (What does God want me to value?), and Hands (What does God want me to do?) aspects of the message.

- A major overall theme in the book of Acts is the unstoppable gospel. How was the Word of God central to the spread of the gospel throughout Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth?
- How can we be effective at reproducing the Word if we are not consistently and intentionally receiving the Word?
- How have we seen the power of the Word in our lives? In the lives of others?
- In what practical ways can we make the Word central in our lives? In our families? How can we be held accountable?
- What do our lives reveal about how much we value God's Word? How can we increase our hunger and desire for God's Word?
- How important was the reproduction of the Word in the lives of others to the spread of the Gospel in Acts?
- If we aren't making disciples, are we truly disciples of Christ?
- What excuse have we been using to help us feel better about not speaking the Word/reproducing the Word to others?
- How is every relationship and circumstance in our lives a platform for teaching the Word?
- What people do we see daily with whom we can begin to intentionally teach the Word?

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- How can we pray for God to open our eyes to opportunities to teach the Word as we go about our daily lives?
- Why must God's Word be the source of authority and truth in our relationships and in the subject of our disciple-making?
- How can we journey along with others in various situations (not specifically addressed in Scripture) while maintaining the authority of the Word?
- How can we better prepare ourselves to be truthful and effective teachers of the Word?

Respond . . .

Encourage your group to break out into smaller, same-gender groups where they will respond to the truths of the message. These groups will share with one another based on the following questions and then close in prayer:

- What are some of the main truths that God wants you to know from the message?
- How do your thoughts need to adjust to align with these truths?
- According to the truths from the message, what does God want you to value?
- How do your values need to change to align with His values?
- What actions does God want you to take according to the truths of this message?
- What is an action that you can start to implement today or tomorrow?

Close this time by praying for each other, specifically for strength in the application of these truths and for the lost people with whom you are seeking to share the gospel.

Weekly Prayer Focus ... (from the worship guide)

- **Local:** *This week we are praying for The Foundry, a Christ-centered recovery, re-entry and rescue ministry for men and women battling drug addiction and substance abuse in Bessemer. We are also praying for North Park Baptist, Bill Wilks, Pastor.*
- **Global:** *This week we are praying for Chris and Leah Moore, our Church Planters to east Asia. We are also praying for a Brook Hills team in the Middle East.*
- **Lives and Church:** *Ask God to protect all of our teaching ministries here at Brook Hills from error and impurity.*