

3/3rd's Meeting Guide



1/3 (Preparing the Heart - 30 min.)

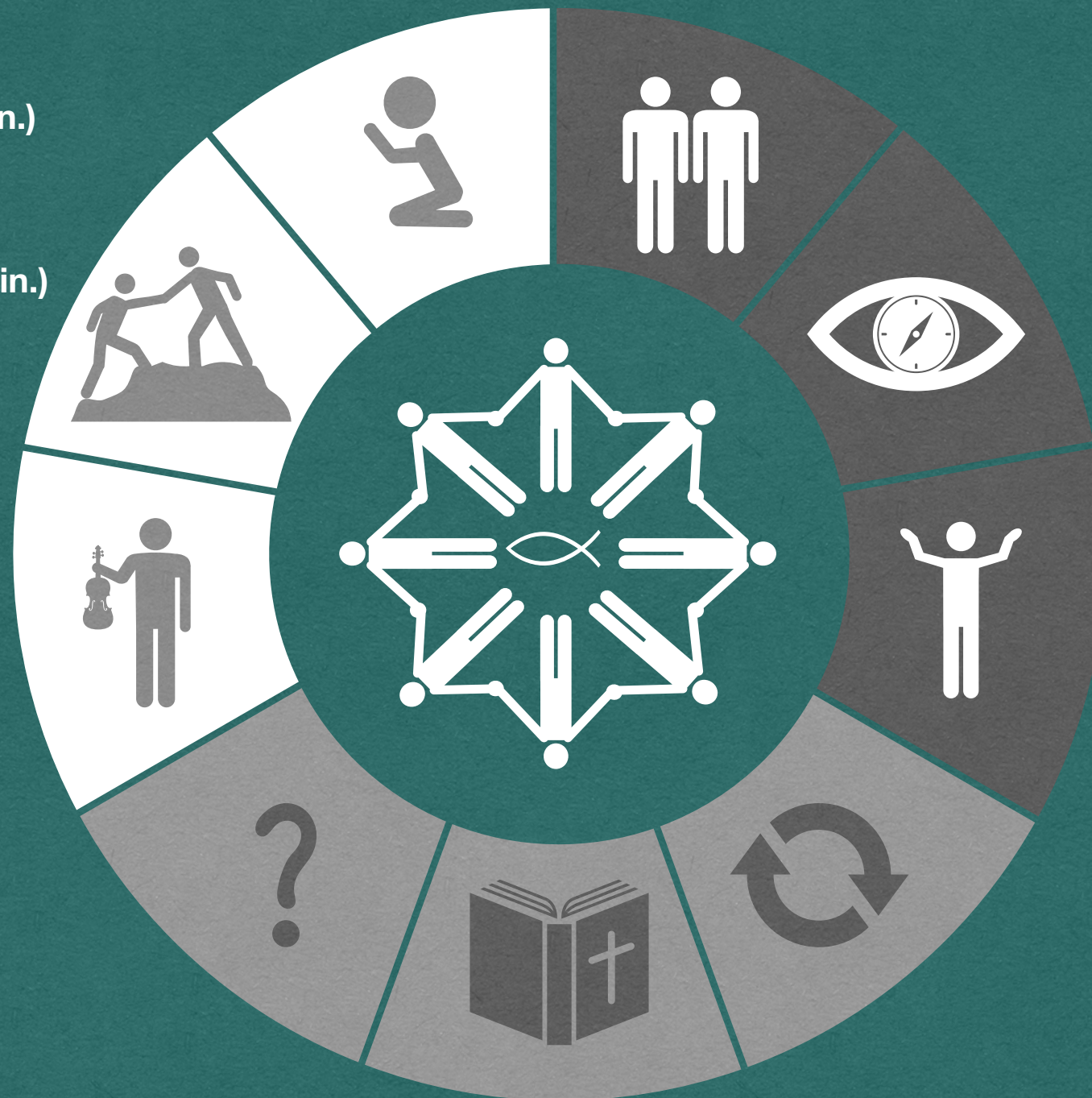
- Accountability
- Vision and Mission
- Worship

2/3 (Hearing the Word - 30 min.)

- Review Last Lesson
- New Lesson
- Study Questions

3/3 (Preparing to Obey - 30 min.)

- Practice
- Edification
- Prayer



4G Mentoring: Growing, Guiding, and
Guarding the Global Bride of Christ

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Foreword

This document has been designed for use with small discipleship groups using cell-phones, tablets, computers, TV connections, or projectors. This document is not designed as a printed book (though it can be printed) or large group presentation but rather as an electronic discussion guide for small or medium sized multi-language groups. The graphics on each page are designed to ease cross-cultural communication issues when using a translator or with group members using a second language. We hope that this document helps facilitate basic discipleship group discussions in both formal and informal groups in homes, churches, and coffee shops around the world. The copyright on this document allows you to freely distribute and even modify the content to meet your needs.

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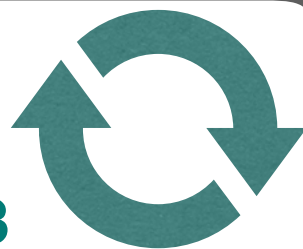
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Rationale



Accountability



1. *How are you doing at living in full obedience to the Lord and to the commands of Christ?*
2. *How are you doing at reaching out and making disciples of others?*
3. *Are there any temptations or sin issues that you need help overcoming?*
4. *How can I pray for you?*

Accountability helps build fellowship and deeper spiritual growth in a group as people learn to trust and help one another. Break into pairs and ask each other these 5 questions. Remember not to break trust by sharing someone else's answers with anyone else. If people arrive early have them go ahead and do accountability. If people arrive late, have them do this after the group meeting. Or if there is a meal people can do accountability during the meal. In the beginning rotate partners until people become comfortable with each other. Men with men, women with women. Be cautious in sharing concerns about sin issues until you have established trust.

Vision and Mission



Leader: *What is our vision?*

Group: *The Gospel for our family, friends, and acquaintances and reproducible home groups in all areas of [our town/city/country] and beyond.*

Leader: *What is our mission?*

Group: *We endeavor to live out our lives in full obedience to the Lord and to reach out and make disciples of all nations by baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and by teaching them to obey everything Jesus commanded.*

Extended Mission Statement

Leader: What did Jesus command us to do?

Group: To love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Leader: What new command did Jesus give his disciples on the night before he died?

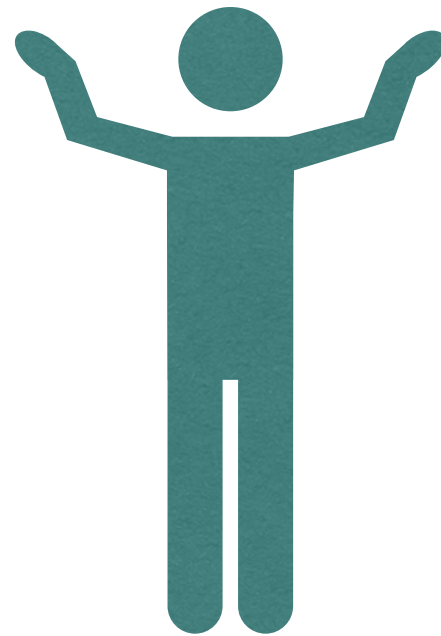
Group: To love one another as Jesus loved us.

Leader: And how did Jesus love us?

Group: By humbly and willingly dying on the cross for our sins.

Leader: Let's remember Jesus' sacrifice for us by observing the Lord's Supper together?

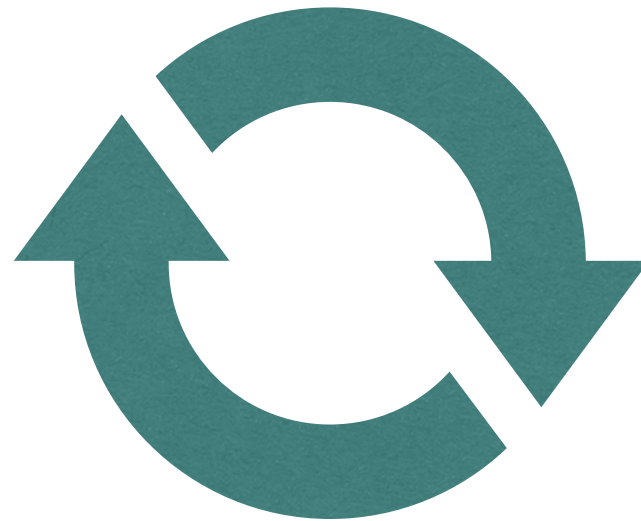
Worship



Leader: Let's worship God by giving him praise as we prepare our hearts to hear his Word.

Worship can include singing songs, reading a Psalm, responsive reading, the Lord's Supper, prayer, taking an offering, etc.. You may want to use youtube songs that have lyrics for the worship time unless you have someone who can play music. You can pass song lyrics to other group members through a social media group chat. If you take an offering, have multiple people record the money to establish good accountability.

Review the Previous Lesson



Leader:

Can anyone repeat the memory verse from our previous lesson (if there is a verse associated with the lesson)?

Can someone retell the previous story or lesson in their own words? Other group members may help.

Did anyone discuss this story or lesson with family, friends, or acquaintances? What was their response?



New Lesson



Leader: Today's lesson is found ...
Who can read this passage for us?



We need to hear and
obey God's Word!
(James 1:22-25)

Study Questions



Leader:



What did you hear? (Repeat back as much of the story or main points of the passage as you can remember in your own words. It doesn't have to be perfect and others can help you.)



What does it mean? (What is God teaching us about himself, Jesus, mankind, sin, salvation, etc.)



What should you do? (How do you apply this lesson to your daily life? What can you obey and how should your life change in response to this passage of scripture?)



Who else needs to hear this message?

Practice



Leader: I want everyone to break up into pairs and practice retelling the story (and the memory verse - if there was a memory verse).

Edification



Leader:



Does anyone have a song, a scripture passage, or something they are learning that they would like to share with the group.



Do you have questions about other parts of the Bible you have been reading?



Have you encountered any questions while sharing your faith that you did not know how to answer?

Prayer



Leader:



Is there anything we can pray for you about today? (pray after each request)



Close in prayer (commission people to go do what they have heard!)

Guard and value the time of others. If the group meeting is running long then close the meeting in prayer so that those who need to leave can go. But let others know that they may stay and discuss questions or prayer needs.

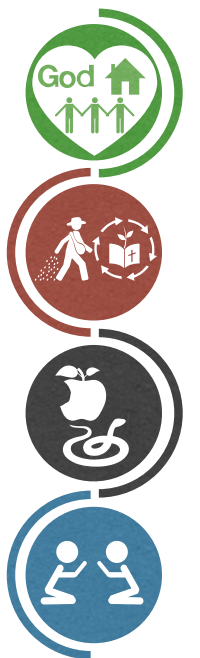
Rationale



This guide is designed for home groups or community groups that are tied to a larger fellowship of believers or for house churches that are part of a network of house churches. The goal is to help groups move beyond simply studying the Bible for personal knowledge to daily living out the commands of Christ as a part of the local and global Bride of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit to the glory of God and for the expansion of his Kingdom. Each part is designed to help individual believers grow in the 6 Transformations of a Disciple: a transformed heart (through the Holy Spirit), a transformed mind (the Mind of Christ), a transformed affection (for God and the things of God), transformed relationships (with others), a transformed will (turning away from sin), and a transformed purpose (missions). Each part is also designed to help group members identify and actively develop spiritual gifts for the good of the Body of Christ in order to help the group develop the 12 Signs of a Healthy Church: biblical discipleship, fellowship, prayer, worship, service/ministry, giving, evangelism, ordinances (Baptism and the Lord's Supper), leadership, membership (commitment), accountability and church discipline, and missions. As a group grows in the 6 Marks of a Disciple and in the 12 Signs of a Healthy Church it is hoped that they will help start new groups with these same types of biblical DNA.

Group meetings will usually last between one and a half to two hours. Each part of the study guide is designed with a purpose in mind:

Accountability: The meeting begins with people pairing up with a partner and asking accountability questions that relate to our vision and mission. People may pair up in separate rooms or simply pair up where they sit in the larger group. One of the 12 Signs of a Healthy Church is that people are lovingly, gently, and respectfully holding one another accountable for obeying the commands of Christ. Accountability also effects many other aspects of a healthy church such as fellowship, prayer, service/ministry, evangelism, and church discipline. The goal is not legalism but deeper spiritual growth as group members develop trust for one another, humbly confess sin to one another, and help each other to grow in practical obedience while learning to practicing mercy and grace. Without the loving mutual accountability of another believer many Christians wander off into unproductive lifestyles that harm themselves, others, and the name of Christ in the community. Every believer needs someone speaking truth into their life through biblical accountability.





Vision and Mission: The Vision and Mission statement remind everyone why the group exists and what the group hopes to accomplish in the future. This helps to build a sense of group “membership” or “commitment.” Many types of groups in society gather for many different purposes. If members do not know why the group exists, cannot communicate a clear vision, and have no understanding of how to accomplish this vision the group tends to become unfocused and unproductive. The Vision and Mission statement are designed to help group members understand, promote, and actively participate in the group’s vision and mission. These statements should be repeated each time the group meets.



Worship: Worship orients our focus towards God, reminds us of his character and faithfulness, and reminds us of our brokenness and need for forgiveness and transformation. This time prepares our hearts to hear the lesson and be transformation through the Word and the Holy Spirit. This worship time can include singing songs, reading a Psalm, responsive reading, prayer, the Lord’s Supper, or taking an offering. Small groups may not have skilled musicians and so may need to find worship songs on Youtube that also have lyrics. It may also be good to send lyrics through some type of group-chat application before the meeting begins so that everyone has the lyrics on their phone unless there is a TV or some other larger device to display the lyrics. If an offering is taken as part of worship be sure to provide good accountability so that suspicion over money issues does not become destructive in the group.



Review the Previous Lesson: Bible teaching should be practical and should transform the daily lives of group members. Material that is only heard once is often forgotten and rarely applied to daily life. Reviewing the previous lesson through asking questions reinforces important information while also evaluating the effectiveness of the lesson. This helps the leader correct misunderstandings, gauge effectiveness, and make appropriate adjustments to help make future lessons more practical.



New Lesson: In some group settings the new lesson is taught by a highly skilled teacher who already has prepared points from the passage. This can be a very effective teaching style and is valuable in many situations including large group settings and Christian leadership development. But it is also important to help train group members to pull out important points from the scripture themselves so they learn to feed themselves and identify false teaching. This guide is designed to help group members read a passage and pull out important points through group discussion. Facilitating this kind of group discussion does not necessarily involve a highly skilled teacher but the leader/facilitator needs to have a good understanding of the scriptures in order to guide the conversation and correct misunderstandings of scripture. The conversation is guided by a standard set of study questions.



Study Questions: The study questions are designed to help group members pull out the universal truths of scripture and apply them to daily life. It may be good for leaders and other group members to have a study Bible on hand to help navigate difficult to understand passages. Although there are standard questions, it is also good to ask creative questions such as: “Why do you think God placed the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil in the Garden of Eden?” Or “Why do you think Jesus said” But avoid subjective questions like, “What does this passage mean to you?” as this leads to bad theology based on opinion rather than biblically based answers. Make sure answers are backed up by scripture and not merely personal experience and opinions.



Practice: The practice time reinforces the lesson by making sure everyone verbalizes the story and the memory verse. This helps the group to see if the story and memory verse were simple enough for people to catch or if there were misunderstandings. This also helps people to prepare to share this story with others at some point in the future.



Edification: The Edification portion of the meeting helps build group fellowship and Bible knowledge. Group members are encouraged to prepare a song, share a scripture passage, or share something God has been teaching them over the last week for the building up of the rest of the body (1 Corinthians 14:26). This is also a time for them to ask questions to the group about things they have read but do not understand in the Bible. Leaders should encourage people to be reading the scriptures daily and bringing questions to the group. This leads to deeper Bible knowledge and a more practical faith. Leaders and other group members should never discourage questions or belittle others for a lack of understanding the Bible. Instead, with patience and gentleness, they should help each other grow up into spiritual maturity through the Word, the Holy Spirit, and the Body of Christ. If someone asks a difficult question and no one has a good answer, the leader should say that they will do some research and get back to the group with an answer. This also helps leaders and group members grow in the ability to answer tough biblical questions.



Prayer: During this time group members are encouraged to share prayer concerns and someone in the group prays for each request as it is shared. This prayer time builds fellowship and a deeper faith as group members begin to see lives transformed through the power of Spirit-filled group prayer.

The group meeting closes with the leader commissioning the group in prayer to go out and do what they have learned.



Suggested Lesson Order

Seeker's Class (7 lessons total)

01 - Creation to Christ (C2C) (1 lesson)

02 - The Six Sacrifice Stories (6 lessons)

Believer's Group (25 lessons total)

03 - Initial Discipleship - Milk (5 lessons)

04 - Basic Discipleship - Meat (20 lessons)

Christian Worldview (2 lessons)

05 - Bird's Eye View of the Bible (1 lesson)

06 - Bird's Eye View of Church History (1 lesson)

Book Studies (4-5 years) - no material but uses 3/3rds format

- James (character development)
- Titus (group development)
- Luke (or one of the other four Gospels (understanding the Gospel)
- Acts (understanding the early church and group multiplication)
- Genesis (theological foundations)
- Exodus (theological foundations)
- Joshua (theological foundations)
- Judges (theological foundations)

