

Walking the Way

God's Family

Icebreaker Question: *What is something you have built, made, or created? Share about what you enjoyed about the process and what effort was needed.*

Leader: You don't have to answer all the questions below. Pick the ones that you think apply more directly to your group or make up your own that you think will help your group grow as disciples of Jesus. Let the Holy Spirit guide your conversation.

- Passages to consider for the group discussion: **Matthew 28:18-20; Galatians 4:4-7, Matthew 12:48-50, Ephesians 5:21 – 6:4**
- What are some key takeaways you can share from the sermon? (This can be something you were encouraged by, challenged with, or a question you may have).
- What shapes your idea of how a family works? A) What have you learned about family from God's Word and relationships in the Church?
- Christ-follower homes are not just homes with parents and children. What relationships does your home sphere include? A) What does building a foundation and walls look like for you? What is challenging for you in bringing Christ's impact to your home sphere? B) Roofs are important. Who, besides those you may live with, do you intentionally include in your family sphere?
- In your family, how do you help each other abide with Jesus? If you are single, with whom do you have spiritual conversations where you are real, known, and challenged? A) How is your home life being impacted by your relationship with Jesus? How do you want it to be impacted?
- Read **Matthew 7:26 & James 1:22.**
 - **Head:** Based on this past week, who/what is ruler of your life... who/what am are you submitting to?
 - **Heart:** What do you need to repent of today?
 - **Hands:** My response/next step of obedience to Jesus is:
 - What would Jesus have you say Yes to right now in your life life?

Prayer & Praise: Share about the needs that each of you has and pray for one another. Pray also for God to open doors for your group to take some action steps as a result of this discussion. Share wins where you have seen God at work.

SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES

Safe Group – This is a safe group. We will do our part to create an environment where everyone can be real, open & honest with their struggles and victories.

James 5:16, Ephesians 4:25

Confidentiality – Confidentiality is key. What is said in the group stays in the group. **Proverbs 11:12-13**

Listen– Be sure to listen well. Let's value one another during our discussions by really listening to what is being shared. Try to what is being shared. Try to avoid thinking about how you're going to respond or what what you're going to say next. **James 1:19**

Pause – Allow a pause in conversation after someone shares to give the person sharing the chance to finish and the group the opportunity to consider what was just shared before responding.

Silence – Allow silence in the group. It is important to allow silence in the group as it provides an opportunity for someone to share and for members in the group to process the topic or question being considered.

No "Crosstalk" – Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations. **Proverbs 26:20**

Don't Rescue & Don't Fix – When someone is sharing something deeply personal and/or painful, there can be a tendency to try to make them feel better about themselves or the situation. Often this will cause people to stop sharing and results in their not going as deep as they might have gone. Resist the desire to rescue people. Try to hear what people are sharing without trying to fix them. If they want your advice, they will ask for it. You may want to take time later to ask if you may offer some advice. **Proverbs 18:13**

Use Humor Responsibly – Fun is an essential part of Small Group; however keep sarcastic comments, jokes, and laughter to a minimum to allow for an atmosphere of authenticity and vulnerability. **Matthew 12:36**

Be Self-Aware – Be self-aware of how you are personally affecting the environment through your words, actions, and non-verbal communication. **Proverbs 21:2**

We will not Debate Issues – These boundaries are essential for a balance and harmony in the group. **1 Corinthians 1:10**

"I" Statements – Use "I" statements. It's easy to talk about the issues of others, but we want to go deeper. Try to use "I" statements rather than "them", "they", "we", "us", "the church", etc. **Matthew 5:37**

Sharing – We want everyone to have a chance to share. Be sensitive about the amount of time you share. **James 1:19**

Start and Stop on time – Be mindful of the host and other members not to come too early or stay too late. **Proverbs 25:17**

Conflict Resolution – We will commit to Resolve conflict biblically. As humans we will need to extend grace to one another. Conflict is not bad, but an opportunity for growth. We are being changed to be more like Jesus, so conflict and change are part of the journey. When conflict or sin issues between group members arise, we want to make sure that we are honoring God and each other in the way we deal with these issues.

Overlooking an offense. **Proverbs 19:11**
Restoring someone in sin. **Galatians 6:1-5**
Forgive a sinner. **Colossians 3:12-13** Reconciling differences. **Matthew 5:23-24**