



GROW SERIES
A DISCIPLE-MAKING TOOL

REACH

YOUR WORLD



A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR SHARING YOUR FAITH

LEADERSHIP NOTES

REACH YOUR WORLD

LEADERSHIP NOTES

Every time you gather with your group, you want to divide your time into three sections: looking back, looking together, and looking forward. Your group time together should last between 60 and 90 minutes each. Plan to balance your time between these three sections and don't spend all of your time on just teaching content, so leave plenty of time for all three areas.

LOOKING BACK

The goal of this section is to provide pastoral care and accountability

- Ask questions about the past week such as: "How did this week go?" "What stressed you?" "What went well?" "What's heavy on your heart?" "Where did you struggle the most?" (Pray for each other as you begin your meeting time.)
- Review last week's "I Will" statement. How are you putting into practice what you are learning? What problems did you have? What successes did you have?
- Review the memory verse of the week. "What did God show you through this verse?"
- Ask them to share from their prayer journals how God has spoken to them this week.

LOOKING TOGETHER

The goal of this section is to review the new teaching and practice what you have learned.

We want each person to grow in competence and confidence as they put God's Word to practice.

- Spend time reviewing the key questions from each day and discussing answers.
- Half of the time should be spent on teaching and half of the time on practicing what you have learned together as a group.

LOOKING FORWARD

The goal of this section is to plan how they will practice what they have learned during the week and then commission them to do it.

- Have each person craft an **“I Will”** statement, setting a goal of how each person will put into practice what he or she has learned this next week.
- Commissioning: Pray for the group as they go out to do what they have learned in the power of the Holy Spirit.

INITIAL GROUP MEETING

- **Looking Back:** Spend your time catching up with each other. Have everyone briefly share what has been going on in life since the last meeting. You, as the leader, should start off first.
- **Looking Together:** Hand out the books to everyone. Have someone read out loud the section *“How to use this Book”*. Explain that there is a daily reading for them to do along with a Scripture memorization each week. Take a moment to look over the verses you will be memorizing during this study. You may want to refer your group to the page entitled *“Memorizing Scripture”* in the appendix in the back of the book. Answer any questions they may have regarding Scripture memory. At this time, remind everyone to use and bring their Verse Packs from *“Walk With God”*. Explain that they will be reading through the book of Acts together during the first part of the study. There is an overview of the book of Acts provided in the appendix. Remind them how to **l.i.s.t.e.n.** to God and how to **p.r.a.y.** Refer to the appendices in the back for help. Make sure everyone in your group has a Bible and explain that journal pages are provided each week in the study to record their Bible reading notes. Also read through the **“I Will”** commitment page and ask them to make a commitment to the group by checking the appropriate boxes and sign their name at the bottom of that page. Help your group select prayer partners from within the group and encourage them to exchange contact information. In addition, using the table of contents, briefly give them an overview of what you will be studying over the next seven weeks. Explain that the group will be taking *“fishing trips”* together during this study. So it would be wise to prepare in advance a schedule of those trips so everyone can synchronize their schedules.
- **Looking Forward:** Clearly set your expectations for the group and confirm the details of when and where you will meet. If a member must miss for any reason, they will need to contact both you and their prayer partner. Ask if there are any questions. Close out in prayer together, commissioning them as they head into this first week. I love asking the group to get on their knees for prayer, if possible, as I pray over them. Encourage them by telling them how you will be praying for them everyday and how excited you are to see what God will teach them during your time together.

GROUP LEADER SUGGESTIONS FOR WEEK ONE: LIVING ON MISSION

- **Looking Back:** As you gather together begin by reviewing the week. Ask questions like *“How did it go this week?” “What problems are you facing?” “Did you run into problems with your daily reading?”* After everyone has shared, review the memory verse for the week. Remind the group that they should be trying to say the verse word for word as it appears in the Bible, not just as a paraphrase. Ask about how their reading has been in the book of Acts this week. What did God say to them personally? How is their journaling going?
- **Looking Together:** Week One is all about the motive for living on mission. Review the questions at the end of each day’s reading. On Day Two, share how God has given you a sense of urgency for the people who are lost around you. On Day Four, share about what often keeps you from sharing your faith. Try to expose any misconceptions or hesitations about evangelism they may have. On Day Five, stop to have them picture their own funeral and what kind of fruit they want their life to produce. On Day Six, practice praying that the Holy Spirit would give each member the boldness to speak the Gospel. Remember, modeling every step is vitally important!
- **Looking Forward:** Encourage the group to make an **“I Will”** statement that commits to daily asking the Spirit to give them boldness and opportunities to talk about Jesus. Also remind them to read one chapter of the book of Acts every day, and to **i.s.t.e.n.** and **p.r.a.y.** to God as they read. In this way, we walk with God, moving what we learn from our heads to our hearts. Contact each group member this week. Pray over them that God would give them boldness to share. Try to make a point to meet personally with one member each week for prayer and encouragement.

GROUP LEADER SUGGESTIONS FOR WEEK TWO: REACHING OUT

- **Looking Back:** Take time to review the week and discover the *“highs and lows”* of the week. Review the **“I Will”** statement they made and ask them how it went this week. What challenges did they face? Review the memory verses assigned and journal entries from the past week.
- **Looking Together:** Week Two is about the importance of reaching out to people far from God. Remember to not only review the questions but to also stop and practice. On Day Two, spend time going over the **TOP FIVE** list they created. This is critically important. If someone didn’t do this, stop the group and do it together. On Day Three, discuss how they could use a meal or coffee to build bridges. Share how you have done this recently. On Day Four, discuss how many come to crisis before they

finally come to Christ. Discuss some specific people they know in crisis. Help them see that these people are often the most receptive to the Gospel. On Day Five, make sure they have a plan to pray for their lost friends daily. Get on your knees and spend time praying for their lost friends by name as a group.

- **Looking Forward:** Encourage the group to make an **"I Will"** statement that commits to pray every day for their lost friends and to meet this week with one person on their list for coffee or a meal. Remind them to keep up their daily reading as they **l.i.s.t.e.n.** and **p.r.a.y.** to God. Set up the first *"fishing trip"* you will take together next week. Choose a place where your group can practice having spiritual conversations (homeless ministry, nursing homes, laundry mats, apartment ministry, local jails or prisons, etc.). Pray over them as you commission them for the work God has for them this week! Contact each group member this week. Pray over them that God would give them boldness to share. Try to make a point to meet personally with one member each week for prayer and encouragement.

GROUP LEADER SUGGESTIONS FOR WEEK THREE: SHARING YOUR STORY

- **Looking Back:** Take time to review the week and discover the *"highs and lows"* of the week. Review the **"I Will"** statement about praying daily for the lost friends on the **TOP FIVE** list and taking one of them out for coffee or a meal. Ask them how it went this week. What challenges did they face? Review all the memory verses and journal entries from the past week.
- **Looking Together:** Week Three is about sharing your story! Review the questions at the end of each day's reading. On Day Two, stop and ask each person to read their written *"Christ Story"* testimony. (If one of the testimonies is unclear, then address that privately to clarify that the member truly knows Christ). On Day Three, discuss their *"Crisis Stories"*. Lead out by sharing your pains and how God has used them. Ask each person to share what pain in their past could be their platform. On Days Four through Six, take time to brainstorm and role play how to start conversations and how to move from casual to personal to meaningful to spiritual to Gospel.
- **Looking Forward:** Create an **"I Will"** statement that commits to sharing their testimonies with at least one person this week. This can be anyone (a friend or family member) for the purpose of practicing and getting it done in two minutes or less. Remind them to keep up their daily reading as they **l.i.s.t.e.n.** and **p.r.a.y.** to God. Prepare all the details for your *"fishing trip"* this week! The goal of this trip is to get around people you don't know and practice moving the conversation along toward Spiritual and Gospel conversations. Encourage the group to be ready to share a *"Crisis Story"* and then their *"Christ Story"*. Confirm the details... time, place, location, etc. Pray over them as you commission them for the work God has for them this week! Contact

each group member this week. Pray over them that God would give them boldness to share their stories this week. Try to make a point to meet personally with one member each week for prayer and encouragement.

GROUP LEADER SUGGESTIONS FOR WEEK FOUR: SHARING GOD'S STORY

- **Looking Back:** Take time to review the week and discover the *"highs and lows"* of the week. Review the **"I Will"** statement about sharing their testimonies. How did it go? What challenges did they face? Review how the *"fishing trip"* went and what they learned? Review all the memory verses assigned and journal entries from the past week.
- **Looking Together:** Week Four is all about sharing the Gospel! Review the questions at the end of each day's reading. Starting on Day Two, go over each day, drawing out each part of the diagram and explaining it as you go. Model what it would look like to share the Gospel with someone using this tool. Let the people in your group practice as well. It is very important that they practice as a group and not just watch someone else do it.
- **Looking Forward:** Create an **"I Will"** statement that commits to share the *"Path of Life"* diagram with one person this week. Again, this can be a friend or a family member. This is for the purpose of practicing and getting comfortable with the diagram. Remind them to keep up their daily reading as they **l.i.s.t.e.n.** and **p.r.a.y.** to God. Set up another *"fishing trip"* this coming week. This time, they can practice moving conversations, sharing their stories as well as sharing the Gospel. Encourage them to have a spiritual conversation with someone on their **TOP FIVE** list this week. Pray over them as you commission them for the work God has for them this week! Contact each group member this week. Pray over them that God would give them boldness to share their stories this week. Try to make a point to meet personally with one member each week for prayer and encouragement.

GROUP LEADER SUGGESTIONS FOR WEEK FIVE: HANDLING OBJECTIONS

- **Looking Back:** Take time to review the week and discover the “*highs and lows*” of the week. Review the “**I Will**” statement about sharing the Path diagram with someone this week. How did it go? What challenges did they face? Ask them if they had the opportunity to meet with someone on their **TOP FIVE** list this week. How did it go? Review all the memory verses assigned and journal entries from the past week.

- **Looking Together:** Week Five is about objections, so the conversation in your group could get rather profound. On Day One, discuss the differences between smoke screens and true roadblocks. How can you recognize the difference? On Day Two, discuss the uniqueness of the Bible. On Day Three, discuss how we, as Christians, handle suffering. Share stories from your own life. On Day Four, discuss why Jesus is the only way. What objections do they anticipate experiencing when they say “*Jesus is the only way,*”? On Day Five, discuss the reality of Hell and why Jesus warned about it so often.

On Day Six, talk about the “*yellow light*” and how you have dealt with people who aren’t quite ready to follow Jesus. This is a good place to look at the **EXPLORE STUDY** page in the appendix. Read through this section and discuss how to use the **EXPLORE STUDY**. You may want to bring a copy of the **EXPLORE STUDY** book with you so they can thumb through it. Along the way, role play answers, brainstorm responses and make this a practical training for fielding tough questions. Talk about resources where they can get more answers to hard questions.

- **Looking Forward:** Help your group craft an “**I Will**” statement for this week to share a meal or coffee with someone on their **TOP FIVE** list and attempt to share the Path diagram with them. Remind them to keep up their daily reading as they **l.i.s.t.e.n.** and **p.r.a.y.** to God. Tell them that this coming week they will begin to discover the “*field*” in which God wants them to work. This is the place where they have the most opportunities and impact for sharing the Gospel. It’s going to be a great week! Pray over them as you commission them for the work God has for them this week. Contact each group member this week. Pray over them that God would give them boldness to share their stories this week. Try to make a point to meet personally with one member each week for prayer and encouragement.

GROUP LEADER SUGGESTIONS FOR WEEK SIX: WORKING YOUR FIELD

- **Looking Back:** Take time to review the week and discover the *"highs and lows"* of the week. Review the **"I Will"** statement about sharing the Path diagram with someone on their **TOP FIVE** list this week. How did it go? What challenges did they face? Do they have any questions? Review all the memory verses assigned and journal entries from the past week.
- **Looking Together:** Week Six is all about working the field in which God has planted you. It is very critical for your group to begin to develop a missionary mindset for the four fields in which they live. They should have completed the *"FIELD GUIDE"* which will help them to develop an intentional plan to live on mission. Go through this *"FIELD GUIDE"* together and show how you are putting this into practice in your own life. Day One, help them understand God's plan to scatter believers everywhere and activate them with the Gospel. Clearly define their *"field"*. Day Two, talk about who is in their field. Illustrate with your life experiences. Day Three, stop and pray for their fields, following the pattern for prayer explained on that day. Day Four, explain the person of peace. Day Five, talk about ways to scatter the Gospel. Focus on the **TOP FIVE** list and moving conversations. Day Six, discuss how the church can partner with them using examples from your own life.
- **Looking Forward:** Help your group craft an **"I Will"** statement for this week to share a meal or coffee with someone on their **TOP FIVE** list and attempt to share the Path diagram with them. Also ask them to begin to contact believers in their field and develop an action plan. Remind them to keep up their daily reading as they **l.i.s.t.e.n.** and **p.r.a.y.** to God. Tell them that this coming week is the last week, and you will be talking about the things that hold them back from living on mission. It's going to be a great week! Pray over them as you commission them for the work God has for them this week. Contact each group member this week. Pray over them that God would give them boldness to share their stories this week. Try to make a point to meet personally with one member each week for prayer and encouragement.

GROUP LEADER SUGGESTIONS FOR WEEK SEVEN: BREAKING BARRIERS (FINAL MEETING)

- **Looking Back:** Take time to review the week and discover the “*highs and lows*” of the week. Review the “**I Will**” statement about sharing the Path diagram with someone on their **TOP FIVE** list this week. How did it go? What challenges did they face? Do they have any questions? Review all the memory verses assigned and journal entries from the past week.
- **Looking Together:** Week Seven is all about breaking down barriers that keep us from living on mission every day. Review the answers to the questions at the end of each day’s reading. On day Two, discuss how fear can keep them from speaking boldly about Jesus. Help them to identify sources of fear in their lives. On Day Three, discuss being too busy and how their pace of life may actually keep them from being fruitful. On Day Four, discuss the dangers of creeping indifference. On Day Five, ask them if there are areas of disobedience they need to confess to God? On Day Six, spend time casting a compelling vision of what God wants for their lives. Remind them that real success is not measured in revenue and resumes, not in property or power, but in obedience to Jesus and living on mission for Him.
- **Looking Forward:** This is the last session of your group. It is very important that you take time to review what has meant the most to each group member. Have they learned how to reach their world in a deeper way? If so, how? It is also important to remind them that this is just one step in their spiritual growth. Encourage every group member to take the next step ... learning how to invest in a few by completing the next seven-week study called “*Invest in a Few*”. Give them details about when the next study will start. You might want to get a commitment from those in the group who would like to move forward so that you can order books for them. Also, challenge them to continue to **i.i.s.t.e.n.** to God and **p.r.a.y.** daily for life!

FAQ FOR LEADERS

Q: How should I use the “Leader’s Guide”?

A: I think it is best to read through the “Leader’s Guide” before you meet with your group. Any thoughts or ideas you glean should be written down in your “Walk with God” book. That way, you are not referring to the “Leader’s Guide”; you will be just looking at your own book. The “Leader’s Guide” contains only general suggestions about how to lead your group, and does not contain any additional content to be shared in your group.

Q: How long should each group time last?

A: The length of the group time will often be determined by how many are in your group and how engaged your members are in the discussions. Generally, a group time should last from 60 to 90 minutes. I suggest you don’t let it go too much longer than that. Have a clear start and end time in mind. As you approach the end time, bring the group to a close and then make yourself available for discussion for those who want to stay. This way, you honor everyone’s time but allow additional discussion for those who might need it.

Q: What if someone misses a group session? What should I do?

A: It is common that someone will miss a session. If you postpone a meeting because one or two have to miss, then the rest of the group will be held back. The book is designed to be completed in seven consecutive weeks. If you skip weeks, then the group will be confused as to what week they are studying and will get out of the habit of being in God’s Word every day. My suggestion is to continue to meet as a group for the full seven consecutive weeks. If a member misses, ask them to continue to do their study every day and attend the next group session. You might offer to meet with them individually to discuss the week they missed. Also, you can see if they would be able to join the group via Skype, Facetime or some other conference call technology.

Q: What if you are starting a group but know that your group will end up meeting through the holidays when most members will have to miss?

A: My suggestion is to look at the calendar before you begin a group and plan accordingly. If your group is going to roll through the holidays, make a plan on the front end to meet during that time or just wait to launch your group until after the holidays have passed.

Q: What if I have a group member who is disruptive or strongly disagrees with the material presented?

A: It would be prudent to personally meet with that member and try to resolve the situation. Let them know that they are loved and wanted in the group. However, they must not be disruptive. If they can't make the group time positive for everyone involved, they may need to step out and try it with another group at a later time.

Q: What if I have a group member who comes to the group unprepared on a regular basis?

A: Everyone is busy, and you need to show a healthy dose of grace for anyone who is trying to learn to walk with God in a Grow Group. That being said, if they are not doing the basics to learn how to walk with God laid out in this study, then the group will certainly not benefit them. It would be like joining a gym but never working out. You've got the membership, but you won't see the results. I suggest you meet with them privately and encourage them to come prepared. You may have to make accommodations for them such as decreasing the amount of Bible reading to just a few times a week or allow them to use their cards when memorizing scriptures. You want them to be successful and if they are willing to try, you should do all you can to help them. However, if they can't do what's expected of the group, then you might suggest that they step out of the group until they have the time to really put their best effort forward.

Q: What if there are several weeks between Book One: "Walk with God" and Book Two: "Reach your World". What should I do during that time gap?

A: I realize that there may be time gaps between books. What you do during that time really depends on you and your group. You might suggest that the group members read through a book of the Bible during that gap time while continuing to **l.i.s.t.e.n.** to God and **p.r.a.y.** You might suggest that the group meet once during the time gap to stay connected and pray for one another. You might also suggest that the group stay connected through a group text or social media, and you might provide Scriptures to memorize together. Ultimately, you are the best judge of your group members. Any way you can keep them in God's Word and praying for one another will keep the continuity of the group going.