Introduction: *Use a quote to engage your group.*

Ask for a volunteer to read the following quote:

> We’re prone to want God to change our circumstances, but He wants to change our character. We think that peace comes from the outside in, when in reality it comes from the inside out. Our hearts carry in them their own war or peace, depending on who is in control, Christ or self. Jesus Christ brings peace because He is peace. The more we become like Him, the more we experience His peace and can share it with others.

Then ask your group for their opinions and insights on this quote. Allow time for 2-3 people to respond


**Point 1: Help your group understand an important theme through song.**

Fanny Crosby’s famous hymn “Great is Thy Faithfulness” is helpful in connecting us to the major theme of this session: trusting God’s leading. Play the song for your group (4 minutes, 39 seconds):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0k1WhFtVp0o.

Before playing the song, ask your group to listen to the words and identify two areas mentioned in the song that tell us about God’s faithfulness.

**Point 2: Help your group members understand a key term in the session.**

The session states that we have been commissioned by Christ to be fishers of people. Many people don’t fully understand the concept of commissioning. To help your group members grasp this concept more fully, read the oath given to all members of the armed forces of the United States who are commissioned officers:
“I, [name], do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.”

While Christians don’t recite a code like this (although it might not be a bad idea), many churches have church covenants that prescribe how a member ought to behave. As an exercise, instruct your group to spend a few minutes writing a commissioning oath for members of the church concerning evangelism. Break them into 2-3 smaller groups and then allow them about five minutes to construct an oath. Finally ask each group to read their commissioning oath aloud for everyone else.


**Point 3: Engage using “Think-Pair-Share” technique.**

State the following to your group: “**Think** for 30 seconds about the following: Consider some of the modern-day outcasts and undesirable groups. How can we intentionally reach them with the gospel? Now I want you to discuss this in **pairs** with a person on your left or right who is not your spouse.” (Pause for 60 seconds.) Call on 3-4 pairs to **share** one idea.

**Conclusion: Challenge group members to live the lesson.**

Raise the following question: “When was the last time you shared the gospel with someone?”

If it seems like it’s been a while for some of your members, put forward this follow-up question: “Why has it been so long?” Then say, “Usually we fail to obey God because we are not walking as closely with Him as we should.” Encourage them to spend time in prayer and with Scripture, asking God to grant them boldness and wisdom when it comes to telling others about Jesus and making disciples.
Teaching Tip of the Week

Anytime you try something new, like active learning techniques, there is a danger in focusing so much on the activity for its own sake that your group members miss the main point of the session and fail to reflect on what they are learning. The main value in active learning comes from thinking about the activities after they are completed and openly discussing their meaning with others. Ensure that the sessions you lead use active learning techniques that offer opportunities for students to reflect on what they have just experienced. If the group cannot link the activity to a point of learning emphasis, then the activity did not accomplish its intended goal.