

First *Jahr*

Discipleship Guide

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About Discipleship Groups

Highland Women is the women's ministry of Highland Baptist Church in Waco, Texas. Highland Women exists to provide intentional environments where women can walk together as disciples of Jesus. Our desire is to equip women to know God, to grow in Christ together, and to make disciples in our spheres of influence (Eph. 4:11-16, Col. 1:28-29).

Biblically, a disciple is a devoted follower of Jesus Christ who denies self, walks closely with Him, and invites others to do the same. At Highland, a Discipleship Group is a small group of women who meet faithfully to mature in Christlikeness, with the intention that members grow in their confidence and ability to disciple others.

Groups meet consistently for eight-twelve weeks each fall, spring and summer. At the end of the initial eight-twelve weeks, women have the option to stop meeting or to continue for another eight-twelve weeks, based on the needs of their specific group. As groups continue to meet past the initial time period, the intent is that group members simultaneously disciple others outside the group in some capacity.

The Purposes of a Discipleship Group

1. Walk with God, leading to maturity in Christ:

The primary purpose of your Discipleship Group is that each member walks faithfully with God and experiences personal spiritual transformation as a result. In Genesis 17:1 we read God's words to Abraham, "I am God Almighty; walk before Me, and be blameless." (ESV) God gave Abraham one simple command: to live in faithful communion with Him. The phrase "be blameless" is not a second command; it's the result of Abraham staying close to the all-sufficient, all-powerful One.

The apostle Peter shares a similar encouragement to New Covenant believers in Jesus: "His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence, by which He has granted to us His precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire" (2 Peter 1:3-4). God's power has given His people everything we need for life and godliness. These spiritual blessings are accessed through knowing God. As we walk with Him over a lifetime, we progressively experience the power of God removing our bondage to sin and growing us into maturity.

The means God has provided for us to commune with Him and to grow in Christlikeness are often called "spiritual disciplines." Don Whitney describes spiritual disciplines as "channels of God's transforming grace." He writes, "As we place ourselves in them and seek communion with Christ, His grace flows to us and we are changed" (Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life, p. 19). These biblical habits include (but are not limited to) prayer, confession, the study and application of Scripture, worship, evangelism, and fasting. Believers are called to partake in spiritual disciplines personally and with other believers. These activities are not an effort to earn God's favor, but are means to commune with Him and receive His strength (Phil. 2:12-13).

Spiritual disciplines are the building blocks of every Women's Discipleship Group. We encourage you to prioritize the following practices in your meetings: prayer, confession, and the study and application of God's Word [see more in "Elements of a Meeting"].

2. Develop as leaders, resulting in disciple-making:

A second purpose of your Discipleship Group is that women develop as leaders, prayerfully resulting in their own disciple-making ministries. In 2 Timothy 2:1-2, the apostle Paul writes to Timothy, "You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also." As group members are entrusted with truth, starting with the gospel, they have the opportunity to develop as spiritual leaders. Within your meetings, women can take turns leading in spiritual disciplines, process with one another what might be their spiritual gifts, and more.

As women develop as leaders, God might open their eyes to unique discipleship opportunities around them. Our hope is that through their time in your group, they will learn to hear and respond to God's voice regarding His personal call to "go and make disciples." This could mean they start a new women's Discipleship Group, but is not limited to that.

Discipleship Group Dynamics

1. Time-limited: Each Discipleship Group starts with an end date in mind. We suggest that groups meet for an initial eight-twelve weeks, after which they can revisit the possibility of extending their meetings or of launching members to multiply and begin discipling others.

2. Gender-specific: At Highland, men disciple men and women disciple women. In Titus 2, the apostle Paul speaks to the need for older women to disciple younger women and for older men to disciple younger men. While age isn't always an indicator of spiritual maturity, mature believers carry the biblical responsibility to intentionally invest in those a step or two behind them in their walk with Christ. Likewise, younger believers carry the responsibility to learn from those a step or two ahead of them in their walk with Christ, so that they, too, can learn to spiritually invest in others.

3. Small group of three-five members: The size of a group naturally impacts its dynamics. While there are times when one-on-one discipleship is beneficial and needed, we believe that meeting in a small group can be more effective for the purposes of women's discipleship. A group of three-five becomes a built-in relational system, as women together learn from one another, practice spiritual disciplines, and press into maturity. A group setting also provides opportunities for group members to practice leadership skills in a meeting, such as facilitating discussion.

Finally, leading a group of three-five rather than meeting with someone one-on-one is like multiplying assets, as group members each multiply to disciple three-five others, who later multiply to disciple three-five others, and so on.

4. Regular meetings: From the beginning, your group will establish a weekly or biweekly day and time to meet together. Having it on the calendar encourages faithfulness, accountability, and intentionality. While

regular, scheduled meetings are the base expectation for a discipleship group, relationships extend beyond those meetings. Discipleship relationships are more than regular, structured meetings, but they are not less than that. The prayerful hope is that life-on-life friendship develops between members of your group as you seek to holistically grow as disciples of Jesus together.

Elements of a Discipleship Meeting

This Discipleship Guide was created to be used in eight, sequential “Meetings” (lessons). Each Meeting content is intended to support group members’ goal of growing in Christlikeness and as leaders. To ensure that your time is maximized to that end, each Meeting is broken down into the following elements:

Prayer (5-15 minutes)

Your group will set aside time in each meeting to practice this spiritual discipline together. Prayer is grace God has given for us to both express ourselves to Him and to hear from Him. It’s an incredible means by which we can commune with our Creator, who is an active Participant in our meetings and personal lives. By coming to God in prayer, we acknowledge to Him our neediness and His sufficiency to meet our needs. By practicing prayer in the context of relationships, we develop confidence for our personal prayer life, where we pray to God in secret (Matthew 5-7). Your meetings will always start and end with prayer. However, we encourage you to pause discussion as needed to bring an issue before the Lord. Group meetings provide a safe place to strengthen our prayer habits of worship, confession, petition, intercession, and thanksgiving. (Acts 1:14, Acts 2:42).

Accountability, Confession, and Prayer (15-20 minutes)

In *The Big Book on Small Groups*, Jeffrey Arnold writes, “Accountability involves allowing oneself to be known by another, with the result that one’s actions and choices are known, discerned, and challenged in light of God’s truth” (p. 106). As you experience being known, discerned, and challenged in the context of safe, peer relationships, you will learn how to pursue this with your holy, gracious, and all-powerful God. Your group meetings will encourage humility, self-examination, and honesty, starting with the leader. We will encourage you to agree with Him on your sin and rely on His power to conform to His standards as revealed in His Word. The commitment to group accountability and confession also necessitates your commitment to confidentiality- no gossip or slander will be tolerated!

Here are a few examples of accountability questions your group can use:

- How consistent was your time in the Word and prayer this week? Were you receptive to what the Lord revealed to you?
- How were you tempted this week? How did God provide a way of escape?
- Do you have a need to confess sin?
- How did you invest in others this week?
- How is the Lord prompting you to love others well?
- How can we pray with you towards faithfulness?

Each week you will take turns walking through your chosen, weekly accountability questions. After each person has shared honestly about her week, pause and pray for her right then. Praise God for victories and celebrations, agree with Him on sin, and ask/ thank Him for His power for repentance. Use the space below to record your group's weekly questions.

our weekly accountability questions:

Scripture Discussion and Reflection (20-30 minutes)

All Scripture is God-breathed (2 Tim. 3) and is the primary way God speaks to us directly and personally. We often turn first to human relationships for wisdom in daily life; however, as helpful as person's advice can be there is no better source of wisdom than God Himself. Keeping His Word- the Bible- as the anchor of your group meetings prevents conversation from wandering in an unhealthy direction, and keeps the group aligned with its primary goal: growth in Christlikeness.

This guide will lead your discipleship group slowly through a book of the Bible, with the hope that you grow in confidence and desire to read the Bible for yourself. The Bible portion of your Meetings will include reading, discussion, and reflection.

Scripture Memory & Closing Prayer (5-10 minutes)

Each week, you will identify a verse or two from the text that you can commit to memory. Group members can memorize the same verse(s) or each choose something different. Below are a few Scripture memory tools below that might help you:

- Read the scripture aloud thoughtfully several times, emphasizing a different word or phrase each time you read.
- Write out the verse multiple times as part of the learning process.
- Listen to the Scripture on an app like ESV or Dwell.
- Review the verse(s) throughout the week, then taper to once a month.
- Utilize a tool such as the Navs' topical memory system, the Bible Memory App, etc.

A Note on Leadership Development

Group members are encouraged to take turns each meeting leading one of these elements. This will give every one the opportunity to practice leading in a safe place, to explore your spiritual gifts, and to experience what it's like to learn from the posture of serving.

About This Discipleship Guide

In Colossians 1:28-29 the apostle Paul writes, “Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all His energy that He powerfully works within me.” The goal of Paul’s ministry was to see fellow believers in Christ mature in Him. He labored faithfully to this end according to God’s power at work within him.

While physical maturity comes naturally to us all, this is not the case with spiritual maturity. Our growth in Christ is progressive over the course of a lifetime, and God invites us to engage actively with Him in the process! Graciously, God has given His people access to every spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3), including an Advocate with the Father (Jesus, 1 John 2:1) and a Helper who indwells us (the Holy Spirit, John 16:7). He has also given us His living and active Word (the Bible, Hebrews 4:12) and has adopted us into His family (the Church, Ephesians 4:11-16).

Our growth in Christ was never intended to take place in isolation. Scripture places it within the context of the Church, as mature disciples of Jesus teach and model what it means to deny self and pursue Christ. In 2 Timothy 1:13-14, the apostle Paul writes to his beloved disciple, a pastor of the church in Ephesus, “Follow the same pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.” Here Paul exhorts Timothy to hold fast to the example, or pattern, of sound words that he had heard consistently from Paul. Later in chapter 2, Paul urges Timothy to also entrust those sound words to “faithful men who will teach others also.” While not everyone holds the position of church pastor or elder, the responsibility to entrust the truth to others is shared by every disciple of Christ (Matt. 28:18-20). As we adhere to the sound words and life learned from believers ahead of us, we get to invite others to do the same.

The purpose of this Discipleship Guide is to equip you to grow in Christ and to entrust what you have learned to other faithful women. Each “Meeting”, or lesson, is intended to be completed within a Discipleship Group meeting, and includes opportunities for prayer, confession, Scripture reading and discussion, Scripture memory, and leadership development.

If you are not a part of a Discipleship Group, we encourage you to prayerfully consider two to four women in your spheres of influence, be that in your church, neighborhood, family, workplace, school, etc. Simply invite them to meet with you for eight or nine weeks to read 1 John with you, using this guide for your weekly discussions. As a group choose a regular day, time, and location, and commit to walking together consistently, Meeting by Meeting, through this guide. If you don’t feel ready to lead a group, but would like to join one, reach out to us through our website, hbcwaco.org/women.

If someone has invited you to join her Discipleship Group, we are so glad you’re joining her! As you meet together over the next eight weeks, ask God to make you more like His Son. Be sure to also ask Him for insight into the personal, disciple-making ministry He intends for you in this season of life. Our prayer is that as you hold tightly to the pattern of sound words of Scripture, you will be strengthened and equipped to entrust it to those God has placed in your life.

Meeting One: 1 John 1:1-2:6

Prayer

Open your time together with prayer, acknowledging to God that He is an active Participant in your meeting. Ask Him to open your heart to His Spirit, so that you will be teachable and moldable before Him.

Accountability, Confession & Prayer

Take turns walking through your chosen, weekly accountability questions on page 7. After each person has shared her answers, pause and pray for her before moving to the next person. Praise God for victories and celebrations, agree with Him on sin, and ask/thank Him for His power and grace for repentance.

Use the space below to write down specific prayer requests and celebrations to remember this week.

Scripture Reading

Your group's eight-week journey through 1 John begins with a note about the author of the book. Knowing the author of this letter will help you to make general observations of the book so you will be better equipped to study it verse-by-verse.

About the Author

From the earliest days of the church, the author of 1-3 John was assumed to be the Apostle John. The style of writing, vocabulary, and theology closely resemble his gospel. The author clearly asserts he was an eyewitness of the ministry of Jesus (1 John 1:1-3), speaks with authority which he expects to be recognized, and apparently is well known enough to simply identify himself as "the elder." 1 John was written to encourage faithful struggling believers that were holding on to the truth and to help them persevere while others had been taken in by false teaching.

Now read all of 1 John in your Bibles aloud together. Keep in mind that at this point in your study, you are simply looking at what the text says, not determining its meaning. As you read, underline or highlight the phrases "we are writing", "I am writing", and "I have written."

Scripture Discussion

1. Review your underlined phrases “we are writing”, “I am writing”, and “I have written.” Based on John’s statements, why did he write this letter?
2. John was an eyewitness to Jesus’ life on earth (1:1-3). How does his eyewitness account impact the content of this letter?
3. What is true of those who walk in the light? (1:7)
4. Who is our Advocate? How is He described? (2:1)

Word Study - Advocate *1 John 2:1*

The word “advocate” comes from the Greek word “paraklétos” meaning an intercessor or one who entreats on behalf of another.

Scripture Reflection

5. What have you learned, or been reminded, about the character of God (who He is) this week?
6. What have you learned, or been reminded, about the ways of God (how He works) this week?
7. What are the aspects of “walking in the light” as a disciple of Christ? Read 1 John 1:8-10 again and discuss the importance of confession in the life of a disciple.
8. How can remembering that Jesus is your Advocate to the Father change how you respond when you fall short?
9. How can you walk as Jesus walked in your relationships, decisions, or priorities today?

10. Take this opportunity, if you haven't done so already, to share a time in your life when you have responded to Jesus Christ and what He has done for you (your testimony). Each of you go around and share, beginning with the leader.

Scripture Memory

In the space below, write down the reference and verse that you will commit to memorizing this week. Refer to page 7 for recommended Scripture memory methods.

Prayer

Close your time in prayer, thanking God for His presence and involvement in your meeting and in your individual lives. Thank Him for what He has taught you from His Word, and ask Him to use your time today to transform you more into the likeness of Christ.

Meeting One: 1 John 2:7-17

Prayer

Open your time together with prayer, acknowledging to God that He is an active Participant in your meeting. Ask Him to open your heart to His Spirit, so that you will be teachable and moldable before Him.

Accountability, Confession & Prayer

Take turns walking through your chosen, weekly accountability questions on page 7. After each person has shared her answers, pause and pray for her before moving to the next person. Praise God for victories and celebrations, agree with Him on sin, and ask/thank Him for His power and grace for repentance.

Use the space below to write down specific prayer requests and celebrations to remember this week.

Scripture Reading

Last week, you opened up your eight-week Discipleship Group by looking at 1 John from a bird's eye view, examining major themes, John's backstory, and his purpose for writing the book. We also discussed walking in light as a disciple, the importance of confession and repentance, and Jesus' role as our Advocate. This week, we'll read John's reminder to believers to love our brothers and sisters in Christ and warning he gives about loving the world rather than God.

Read 1 John 2:7-17 aloud as a group.

Scripture Discussion

1. What are the old and new commandments John is describing? (2:7-11)
2. Why is hatred of a brother a serious indicator of spiritual blindness? (2:9-11)
3. List the three ways John differentiates these groups of believers and what truths he affirms them with. (2:12-14)
4. Why is love for the world incompatible with love for the Father? (2:15)
5. What specific things are described as being “in the world”? (2:16)

Scripture Reflection

6. What have you learned, or been reminded, about the character of God (who He is) this week?
7. What have you learned, or been reminded, about the ways of God (how He works) this week?
8. Can you think of someone in your life who has the ability to love as John describes in 2:10? Share with your group and reach out to that person this week to encourage and thank them for loving as Christ loves us.
9. Where are you tempted to “love the world or things in the world” rather than God? List below and/or share with your group.
10. Read Hebrews 12:1-2 aloud as a group. This week, how can you lay aside worldly things and look to Jesus as you run the race He has set before you?
11. To do on your own time in preparation for your next group meeting: Share your testimony with someone outside your Discipleship Group. Next week, come ready to share how the Lord used that experience to make much of Him.

Scripture Memory

In the space below, write down the reference and verse that you will commit to memorizing this week. Refer to page 7 for recommended Scripture memory methods.

Prayer

Close your time in prayer, thanking God for His presence and involvement in your meeting and in your individual lives. Thank Him for what He has taught you from His Word, and ask Him to use your time today to transform you more into the likeness of Christ.

Meeting Three: 1 John 2:18-27

Prayer

Open your time together with prayer, acknowledging to God that He is an active Participant in your meeting. Ask Him to open your heart to His Spirit, so that you will be teachable and moldable before Him.

Accountability, Confession & Prayer

Take turns walking through your chosen, weekly accountability questions on page 7. After each person has shared her answers, pause and pray for her before moving to the next person. Praise God for victories and celebrations, agree with Him on sin, and ask/thank Him for His power and grace for repentance.

Use the space below to write down specific prayer requests and celebrations to remember this week.

Scripture Reading

As we read last week, it's easy even for believers in Christ to give into the desires of the flesh and to chase the ways of the world. This danger can sometimes come from within us. But, as we will see this week, the danger can take also come from an external evil. This is partially why John wrote this letter: to not only give assurance to believers of what they know, but to warn them of deception from the enemy. Let this week's reading sober you to the schemes of the Enemy. But even more so, let it give you confidence, believer in Christ: you have the Holy Spirit inside you.

Read 1 John 2:18-27 aloud.

Scripture Discussion

Word Study – Antichrist

1 John 2:18, 22

The word “antichrist” comes from the Greek word “antichristos” meaning an adversary or opponent of Jesus Christ, the Anointed One.

1. Using this week’s reading and the Word Study above, why is John warning these believers in the last hour?
2. What have we been anointed with by the Holy One? (2:20)
3. What does it do for believers? (2:27)
4. What is the promise God has given us through his Son? (2:25)
5. In 1 John 2:21, John reminds his readers of his purpose for writing. If they already know the Truth, why do they need to be told again? (2:26)

Scripture Reflection

6. What have you learned, or been reminded, about the character of God (who He is) this week?
7. What have you learned, or been reminded, about the ways of God (how He works) this week?
8. As a believer in Christ, do you believe that you have “all knowledge”? How can you be assured of the Holy Spirit’s work in your life?
9. What helps you remain rooted in Truth so that you are not easily deceived? Are there ways you need to grow in disciplines, like Scripture memory or praying Scripture? If so, share with your group and hold one another accountable to store up truth in your hearts (Psalm 119:9-16).
10. What specific Scriptures can help you guard against deception? Share with your group!

Scripture Memory

In the space below, write down the reference and verse that you will commit to memorizing this week. Refer to page 8 for recommended Scripture memory methods.

Prayer

Close your time in prayer, thanking God for His presence and involvement in your meeting and in your individual lives. Thank Him for what He has taught you from His Word, and ask Him to use your time today to transform you more into the likeness of Christ.

Meeting Four: 1 John 2:28-3:10

Prayer

Open your time together with prayer, acknowledging to God that He is an active Participant in your meeting. Ask Him to open your heart to His Spirit, so that you will be teachable and moldable before Him.

Accountability, Confession & Prayer

Take turns walking through your chosen, weekly accountability questions on page 7. After each person has shared her answers, pause and pray for her before moving to the next person. Praise God for victories and celebrations, agree with Him on sin, and ask/thank Him for His power and grace for repentance.

Use the space below to write down specific prayer requests and celebrations to remember this week.

Scripture Reading

Last week, we studied the warning John gave to the believers: deception from opponents of Christ. This week, we'll look at the privilege we receive as children of God and the stark difference of those not born of God.

Read 1 John 2:28-3:10 aloud.

Scripture Discussion

1. How do we know we have been born of Him? (2:29)
2. What privilege does God's love give us? (3:1)
3. What does John lovingly remind his readers about their current and future identity? (3:2)
4. Why did He appear? (3:5, 8)
5. What is evident of children of God? (3:7, 9)
Children of the devil? (3:8, 10)
6. Look up the following cross-references and record what you learn about becoming children of God.
John 1:9-13
Romans 8:7-17
Galatians 3:23-4:7

Scripture Reflection

7. What have you learned, or been reminded, about the character of God (who He is) this week?
8. What have you learned, or been reminded, about the ways of God (how He works) this week?
9. List aloud the implications of God being your Father. How can you show gratitude for the love God lavishes on you, His child?
10. How does the hope of Christ's return motivate purity in your life? How can you practically walk in purity this week?
11. 1 John 3:8 says that Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil! How does this encourage you in areas where you struggle with temptation to sin?

Scripture Memory

In the space below, write down the reference and verse that you will commit to memorizing this week. Refer to page 7 for recommended Scripture memory methods.

Prayer

Close your time in prayer, thanking God for His presence and involvement in your meeting and in your individual lives. Thank Him for what He has taught you from His Word, and ask Him to use your time today to transform you more into the likeness of Christ.

Meeting Five: 1 John 3:11-4:6

Prayer

Open your time together with prayer, acknowledging to God that He is an active Participant in your meeting. Ask Him to open your heart to His Spirit, so that you will be teachable and moldable before Him.

Accountability, Confession & Prayer

Take turns walking through your chosen, weekly accountability questions on page 7. After each person has shared her answers, pause and pray for her before moving to the next person. Praise God for victories and celebrations, agree with Him on sin, and ask/thank Him for His power and grace for repentance.

Use the space below to write down specific prayer requests and celebrations to remember this week.

Scripture Reading

This week, we will read John's reminder that believers are to love one another through action. He will then warn us against false spirits and teachers, urging believers to test everything by God's truth.

Read 1 John 3:11-4:6 aloud as a group.

Scripture Discussion

1. What message had been heard from the beginning? (3:11)
2. How can we know love? (3:16)
3. How is it to be demonstrated? (3:16-18)
4. What do we learn about God in verse 20?
5. What is His commandment and what is true of those who keep it? (3:24)
6. Why does John tell his readers they are to test the spirits? (4:1)
7. How do they know the Spirit of God? (4:2)
8. What is the spirit of the antichrist? (4:3)

Scripture Reflection

9. What have you learned, or been reminded, about the character of God (who He is) this week?
10. What have you learned, or been reminded, about the ways of God (how He works) this week?
11. John makes it clear that we know love in that Jesus laid down His life for us. Where else are you tempted to find evidence for the love of God (i.e. circumstances, relationships, etc.)?
12. Look up the following cross-references and record what else you learn about the love of God.

John 15:12-14

Romans 5:7-8

Ephesians 5:2

1 John 4:9

13. How can you practically “test the spirits” against what is true?

14. If you feel comfortable, confess aloud to your Discipleship Group any ways that you love the world more than you love God.

Scripture Memory

In the space below, write down the reference and verse that you will commit to memorizing this week. Refer to page 7 for recommended Scripture memory methods.

Prayer

Close your time in prayer, thanking God for His presence and involvement in your meeting and in your individual lives. Thank Him for what He has taught you from His Word, and ask Him to use your time today to transform you more into the likeness of Christ.

Meeting Six: 1 John 4:7-21

Prayer

Open your time together with prayer, acknowledging to God that He is an active Participant in your meeting. Ask Him to open your heart to His Spirit, so that you will be teachable and moldable before Him.

Accountability, Confession & Prayer

Take turns walking through your chosen, weekly accountability questions on page 7. After each person has shared her answers, pause and pray for her before moving to the next person. Praise God for victories and celebrations, agree with Him on sin, and ask/thank Him for His power and grace for repentance.

Use the space below to write down specific prayer requests and celebrations to remember this week.

Scripture Reading

Last week we were reminded of the message to love one another. This week centers on the truth that God Himself is love. John writes how God's love is revealed through the sending of His Son and how those who abide in God must love others.

Read 1 John 4:7-21 aloud as a group.

Scripture Discussion

1. Who is the source of love? (4:7)
2. How was the love of God made manifest? (4:9-10)
3. How could John's readers know that God abides in them? (4:12-16)
4. What gives John's readers confidence on the day of judgment? (4:16-18)
5. What does verse 20 say about those who claim to love God but hate a fellow believer?
6. What commandment has God given? (4:21)

Scripture Reflection

7. What have you learned, or been reminded, about the character of God (who He is) this week?
8. What have you learned, or been reminded, about the ways of God (how He works) this week?
9. Read Matthew 5:43-47. How does Jesus challenge His disciples to love differently than the world?
10. Describe a time when the love of God empowered you to also love someone else.
11. What practical steps can you take this week to intentionally abide in the love of God?

Scripture Memory

In the space below, write down the reference and verse that you will commit to memorizing this week. Refer to page 7 for recommended Scripture memory methods.

Prayer

Close your time in prayer, thanking God for His presence and involvement in your meeting and in your individual lives. Thank Him for what He has taught you from His Word, and ask Him to use your time today to transform you more into the likeness of Christ.

Meeting Seven: 1 John 5:1-12

Prayer

Open your time together with prayer, acknowledging to God that He is an active Participant in your meeting. Ask Him to open your heart to His Spirit, so that you will be teachable and moldable before Him.

Accountability, Confession & Prayer

Take turns walking through your chosen, weekly accountability questions on page 7. After each person has shared her answers, pause and pray for her before moving to the next person. Praise God for victories and celebrations, agree with Him on sin, and ask/thank Him for His power and grace for repentance.

Use the space below to write down specific prayer requests and celebrations to remember this week.

Scripture Reading

As we begin the last chapter, John declares a beautiful truth over believers. We are children of God! Through faith in Christ, we are born of God, overcome the world, and receive the gift of eternal life in His Son.

Read 1 John 5:1-12 aloud as a group.

Scripture Discussion

1. Who has been born of God? (5:1)
2. How do we know that we love the children of God? (5:2)
3. How is the love of God described? (5:3)
4. Who is it that overcomes the world? (5:4-5)
5. How did Jesus Christ come? (5:6)
6. What are the three that testify? (5:6-8)
7. Who has the greater testimony about Jesus? How might this have been encouraging to John's readers? (5:9)

Scripture Reflection

8. What have you learned, or been reminded, about the character of God (who He is) this week?
9. What have you learned, or been reminded, about the ways of God (how He works) this week?
10. How does our faith in Jesus Christ give us victory over the world (5:4-5)? Look up the following passages and record what you learn.

John 16:33

1 John 4:4

11. 1 John 5:12 says, "Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life." Look up the following passages and record anything that adds to your understanding of this truth.

John 3:35-36

John 5:24-27

12. How are you experiencing victory over temptation to sin? How do you still need to experience it this week? Commit to pray for one another as it relates to victory over temptation.

Scripture Memory

In the space below, write down the reference and verse that you will commit to memorizing this week. Refer to page 7 for recommended Scripture memory methods.

Prayer

Close your time in prayer, thanking God for His presence and involvement in your meeting and in your individual lives. Thank Him for what He has taught you from His Word, and ask Him to use your time today to transform you more into the likeness of Christ.

Meeting Eight: 1 John 5:13-21

Prayer

Open your time together with prayer, acknowledging to God that He is an active Participant in your meeting. Ask Him to open your heart to His Spirit, so that you will be teachable and moldable before Him.

Accountability, Confession & Prayer

Take turns walking through your chosen, weekly accountability questions on page 7. After each person has shared her answers, pause and pray for her before moving to the next person. Praise God for victories and celebrations, agree with Him on sin, and ask/thank Him for His power and grace for repentance.

Use the space below to write down specific prayer requests and celebrations to remember this week.

Scripture Reading

Having explained where true life is found, John closes this book by assuring us of eternal life, encouraging us to pray with confidence, and calling us to say faithful to God alone.

Read 1 John 5:13-21 aloud as a group.

Scripture Discussion

1. Verse 13 is a summary of John's letter. Recall who John is writing to and why.
2. What conditions are to be fulfilled in order to have confidence that God hears and answers our requests? (5:14-15)
3. Who is the one committing a sin not leading to death? (5:16)

What are John's readers to do in this situation?

5. How does John instruct his readers regarding the sin leading to death?
6. In light of what we have discovered in this book, what might be the sin that leads to death? (Consider the whole counsel of God's Word!)
7. What does John know about those who have been born of God? (5:18)

Who protects them?

8. Look at each place that the word "know" is used in verses 19-20. List what John knows in the space below. (5:19-20)
9. How does John close his letter? (5:21)

Scripture Reflection

10. What have you learned, or been reminded, about the character of God (who He is) this week?
11. What have you learned, or been reminded, about the ways of God (how He works) this week?
12. In light of 1 John 5:13-21, what should we pray for? For whom should we pray?
13. Based on what you have seen in 1 John, are you confident that you possess eternal life?

How does this allow you to enjoy God?

Reflection on the Last Eight Weeks

1. What has been the most impactful truth about Himself that God has shown you in the last eight weeks, and why?
2. The last eight weeks, you have practiced spiritual disciplines with your Discipleship Group, like Scripture reading and memory, prayer, confession, and more. These disciplines are simply means of positioning ourselves to be strengthened by God's grace! What spiritual disciplines have you most enjoyed practicing with these women?
3. What discipline do you hope to become more comfortable in? Remember that the goal of discipleship is not perfection, but gradual, continual growth in Christlikeness.
4. What is one specific way God is asking you to apply what you learned from your study of 1 John?

Scripture Memory

In the space below, write down the reference and verse that you will commit to memorizing this week. Refer to page 7 for recommended Scripture memory methods.

Prayer

Close your time in prayer, thanking God for His presence and involvement in your meetings the last eight weeks and in your individual lives. Thank Him for what He has taught you from His Word, and ask Him to use your time together in 1 John to transform you more into the likeness of Christ.

