

BIBLE STUDY

in a ~~**BOX**~~

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Welcome!

If you are reading this, we want to affirm you and congratulate on you being one of the very first owners of this Grade-A, virtually indestructible, and dare we say ‘sexy’ *Bible Study in a Box PDF!* If this all seems scary or overwhelming- that’s ok, take a deep breath. You have been entrusted with leading a Bible Study because we believe you have demonstrated the initiative and faithfulness to do so. You’re encouraged to give the Study your own flavor. Be sure to pray and to be fully surrendered to the Holy Spirit for empowerment and understanding. Remember, your worth is not found in your effectiveness to lead a study- it’s found in Christ. We will be praying and available alongside you every step of the way!

-Your friendly neighborhood Cru at WDW

Bible Study Checklist

Before 1st Bible Study:

- Pray. Prayer is good.
- Find a co-leader or two if you haven't already. It's always nice to have someone by your side.
- Read *Bible Study in a Box*-PDF. All of it.
- Determine the ministry group this Bible Study is primarily for. Is it just a general Disney College Program Bible Study? Is it for a particular cultural or ethnic group? Is it for a particular role and/or work location (e.g. Entertainment; Disney Springs Custodial; Pizzafari)?
- Determine the location and time. If in a Disney Housing apartment, do you have written/verbal confirmation from all roommates that it is okay to host a weekly Bible Study?
- Determine which "The Community" curriculum you will be using and prepare the first lesson.

During 1st month:

- Hold a Potluck dinner.
- Plan a trip to a Disney theme park, mini-golf, or Disney Springs before or after the Study.
- Challenge attendees to help lead a lesson, plan a game, or bring snacks.

During 2nd & 3rd months:

- Focus on being more outward-focused. How can you be bringing roommates and co-workers to hear God's Word? How can you GO and step into their lives where they are at to serve them and join them in their spiritual journey?
 - Spend time during study to bake cookies that attendees can bring back to their roommates.
 - Challenge everyone to invite a friend to Bible Study for next week.
- Be praying for and looking for new leaders who can take over leadership after you leave.

After 3 months:

- Challenge potential candidates to take over leadership of the study. Entrust all who accept to take over. Give them Bible Study in a *Box* PDF.

The Vision of a Bible Study

The Bible is the living and active Word of God (Hebrews 4:12.)

It is a blessed source of delight and daily meditation (Psalm 1:1-2.)

It is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16.)

It is the unified message of the gospel of God's grace and reconciliation bearing witness to Jesus Christ the Son, our Lord and Savior (John 5:39.)

It is an authoritative, inerrant, comprehensible, sufficient, and necessary treasure.

Thus, for God's children to gather together to hear of our Father's scandalous Love for us; to grow in our wisdom and skill in wielding this soul-piercing sword; to be obedient doers of the Word as it transforms our lives inside as well as out; to adeptly impart this life-saving gift to an enslaved, dying world in dire need of abundant Freedom and Life; and *to sit at the feet of Jesus- that* is why we study the Scriptures.

A 5-minute Guide on *How to Lead a Bible Study*

CHAT (a.k.a. The 4 Elements of a Great Bible Study)

Community:

Life was meant to be lived in community. You don't want the people who show up to be random strangers. (Didn't your parents ever tell you Stranger Danger?) You want to build relationships. Show people you care for them. Have fun. Have food. Play a short game. Be a family. Everyone, regardless of belief or background, is encouraged and welcomed to join- so make them *feel* it.

Hear:

As much fun as a community group is, the bread and butter of a Bible Study is... well, you guessed it: studying the Bible. You want to be attentive listeners to what God is saying to all cultures throughout all of history through the most important book ever written. Take time to observe and (correctly) interpret the passage.

Apply:

While knowing the Bible is great, it shouldn't end there. If it's all head knowledge, what's the point other than being a big snooty pants? The ultimate goal is to point the group to Jesus and His redemptive work. Be sure the focus is on applying God's Word to our hearts. Changing actions is admirable and will last for a while, maybe; changing the heart (slowly but surely) will last for a lifetime. We need to apply God's Word to our hearts first and foremost, and then that will be applied to our actions. Think *If this truth were fully alive and active in my inward being, how would my life look differently?*

Tell (God and others) what you've learned:

It's easy to read a passage, figure out next steps, and then move on. But we should first thank God about the insight His Spirit has provided and ask Him that the passage would take root in our hearts for life transformation- for His glory. So take time to pray in light of the passage. Secondly, as God invests in our lives, He never intends those good deposits to stop with us- they are always intended to be passed onto others. All groups need to take the key step of turning the focus of the group from "getting" to "giving." So who is someone you can invest these truths into this week? (Yes, this week.) We aren't just reconciled; we are reconcilers.

Locating the Bible Study

Before you even begin to plan the study, make sure you have a finalized location- and a good one. Someplace (1) relatively quiet, (2) easily accessible, and (3) consistent. (Clean is also nice.) Consistency is often overlooked but vital; you don't want the location to constantly change so your members get all higgledy-piggledy figuring out where to go every week.

An apartment in Disney Program Housing is the ideal location, but absolutely make sure you ask *all* of the roommates if it is alright to host a weekly study- we want to represent Christ well. If you can't have it in an apartment, have it someplace more quiet, spacious, and private. We've found Chick-fil-A and Panera Bread to be better locations nearby.

Planning the Bible Study

Take a week to plan the Study. (Not just 30 minutes before it starts. We've been there. It's not fun.)

Day 1: Don't even read the passage yet. Just pray for the study.

Day 2: Read the passage. Don't use any resources- just read the passage and see what the Spirit tells you.

Day 3: Read the passage again. Mark it up. Ask questions. Use a Study Bible. Use "One Story."

Day 4: Read "The Community" article. And determine the learning objective(s) for the Study.

Day 5: Determine the good questions you want to ask from "The Community" article.

Day 6: Spend some more time in prayer for your study and the people who will be there.

Day 7: Bible Study!

Suggested Timeline for a 90-minute Bible Study

- Allow time for late arrivals, small talk, and snacks (5 mins)
- Have everyone introduce themselves, and then an ice breaker question/game (10-15 mins)
- Cast Vision for the Bible Study (CHAT; Observation/Interpretation/Application) (2 mins)
- Ask Launch question (5 mins)
- Pray before reading God's Word (1 min)
- Allow everyone to read, re-read and mark up the text (3 mins)
 - Always take a little longer than feels necessary for people to reread and truly understand the passage; oftentimes people will just go through it quickly without actually engaging the passage.
- Discussion questions (Observation, Interpretation, Application) (45 mins)
 - Note: You might feel that some Observation questions that The Community asks are obvious or repetitive- but they are vital. It's likely this could be someone's first time ever reading the Bible. So don't be afraid to ask them; they will help drive home to those attending what the passage is saying as well as the necessity of observation in personal Bible Study.
- Private prayer in direct response to the passage *don't skip this* (2 mins)
- Personal prayer requests (10 mins)
- Announcements, One Story hand-outs, & Closing (2 mins)

Facing Difficulties in a Bible Study

We won't wish these difficulties on anyone, but getting through adversity is a sign of character. Here are some helpful tips for dealing with those most pesky and persistent of problems.

(p.s. These are helpful tips even if you aren't experiencing difficulties.)

No one is talking after you ask a question so there is too much 'awkward' silence

Note: Sometimes as leaders, we feel there is awkward silence when there really isn't. You've already taken the time to know the passage and questions, but the people who come have not - they naturally need time.

- Feel free to call on people, but try not to put someone brand new on the spot.
- After asking a question, have people break off into groups to discuss. (People often have something they want to say but feel uncomfortable saying it in front of a large audience.)
- Rephrase the question.
- Address the reason for why you are allowing silence: "I'm allowing people the time to think; I know I'm an internal processor and need the time to figure out what I want to say before I say it."

Certain individuals are talking way too much and dominating the discussion

Note: Oftentimes, despite what we may assume, people aren't even aware that they are talking too much, so always be understanding and gracious.

- Say, "How about someone who hasn't spoken much yet answer this one," after asking a question. Another line to try is, "Let's make sure everyone gets the opportunity to discuss."
- After asking a question, have people break off into smaller groups to discuss. (This will allow less assertive individuals the opportunity to speak up.)

The discussion is getting off topic.

- Simply bring it back to topic. Be patient, but interrupt if need be. Feel free to make a joke out of it. "Hey gang, that's funny, but let's bring it back to the Bible." or "On that note..." Never be a dictator, but remember: you are the leader of the study.

Someone answers a question with a theologically incorrect or harmful statement

Note: an incorrect statement is a minor confusion/misstatement over the passage; a harmful statement is a major falsehood about a foundational Christian Truth (typical examples include: the Trinity; assurance of salvation; means to salvation; etc.)

- Ask them, "Where do you see that in the passage?" or "How did you come to that conclusion?" Usually people say incorrect statements because they have skipped observing the facts of the passage and went straight on to interpretation/application.
 - This can be good to do early on - even when someone asks a question correctly. It sets the tone that we are searching for answers *in the actual Bible*, not what we think or have heard before.
 - PROTIP: When asking questions, begin with "According to this passage..."
- Ask the group, "Does anyone else have a different perspective or something to add?" Hopefully someone else can answer correctly and you can politely reaffirm their answer.
- If that still doesn't work and you sense that the group is confused and/or agreeing with the misstatement, feel free to gently correct the misstatement *using Scripture*. You too will need to point the people to God's Word for everyone to see that the answer comes from Him and not you.

One Story

You may find that your Bible Study feels more like a Bible Quiz- where you ask a series of predetermined questions only you know and wait until some brave soul manages to get the answer right before swiftly moving onto the next question and so one and so on and then it's over- rather than like a dynamic group discussion where individuals are bringing their own Spirit-given discoveries and perspectives on Scripture to the table and being equipped to properly study the Bible on their own. Avoiding the former and establishing the latter is tricky, especially in a group with new arrivals every week and people with widely varying experiences with God's Word.

"One Story" aims to change all that. "One Story" is a series of questions used to help people in your Study discover Scripture on their own. All of Scripture is telling one story. It's a story about Jesus and our need for Him. The great story is comprised of many little stories found throughout the Old and New Testament narratives, and it is reinforced in the law, poetry, prophecy, and epistles. Every passage in some way draws our attention to our fallenness and Christ's solution to our fallenness. But that can be hard to see often.

If you want to have a thriving community full of individuals who come prepared to discuss and are equipped for the rest of their life, we highly recommend handing out "One Story" after every study and encouraging members to use the questions to go through *next* week's study in the meantime. That way, people will come prepared having already understood the basics of the passage and are ready to dive in deep. And if they can't make it next week, as is likely because Disney, then they won't have missed out on the series. Also, even if they never come back, you've given them a tool that they can now use for a lifetime to study God's Word. It's a win-win-win.

The Community

“The Community” is a small group Bible study curriculum designed with a logical progression, that could take a new Christian, ground them in the basics of the faith, and grow them into a Christ-centered laborer.

Each of the studies in “The Community” presents classic, transferable teaching through a distinctively redemptive lens, in a way that is easy to use in a dynamic, interactive small group community. Each study is designed to first teach the leader the passage and then provide them with questions they can use to lead their group through a process of self-discovered learning.

“The Community” is, unapologetically, Bible study in a can. That is, it is a curriculum of solid biblical data that has been packaged so as to enable broad distribution. It’s not, however, a serving dish. It’s the job of the chef (read: you as Bible Study leader), to open up the can, add a little seasoning, and make the meal presentable.

This is a link to the complete content of “The Community” curriculums. Personally, we recommend doing one of the *Ephesians*, *Luke*, or *Acts* series. You’ll find: the name of the study, the topic, the passage, the Study Guide, and the article (listed by name).

Additional Resources

for the ambitious leader

Guiding a Discussion

Group discussion is like a captivating, well-played volleyball game. As the leader, you serve the ball by asking a good question. Then someone answers, setting up the ball for someone else in the group to respond, who then hits the ball to another individual. When the volley is dead, you serve up another question. The goal is not simply to keep the discussion going, but to direct it in such a way as to facilitate learning and life-change.

It takes practice, preparation and hard work to play an exciting game of volleyball, and the same is true in making good group discussion work.

There are a variety of ways to use questions. For example, if you were summarizing a lesson, it might be appropriate to use a limiting question such as, “How would you summarize the main emphasis of this passage?” However, at the beginning of a lesson you would want a wide open question such as, “Would you consider yourself a patient person? Why?” Note that although the first part of the question is limiting, it sets up the wide open question which asks people to share about their struggles with being patient. Here are some helpful ways to use questions:

Launching Questions

A good way to start a study is using a wide open question that raises an issue that your passage will address. This is not just a “get to know you” kind of question, but one that links to your passage and possibly touches on an aspect of our Fallen Condition that’s surfaced in the passage. For example:

Q: Describe a time in your life when you felt like you just couldn’t measure up? (A possible lead-in question to a study on grace or forgiveness.)

Q: Name a hero you had growing up. What made you want to be like him/her? (This could launch a study on, say, Ephesians 5 where Paul exhorts his readers to “imitate God” or a 1 Timothy 4 study on “setting an example.”)

Exploring Questions

After your launch question(s) and a brief summary of the passage, you will want to ask questions that help your group discover what God said. In order to arrive at the meaning of the passage, these questions should be both limiting and open-ended and should focus on the following:

What does it say? (observation questions)

Q: Ephesians 2:1-10, how does Paul describe the contrast between who they are now in Christ with who they once were?

Q: In Ephesians 2:4-7, what are the present realities of a believer's relationship with God?

What does it mean? (interpretation questions)

Q: In Ephesians 2:2, what does it mean that we once walked according to the ways of the world?

Q: In Ephesians 2:5, what does it mean to be made alive with Christ? (In order to get at Paul's meaning it would be helpful for your group to see the contrast between being "alive" and "dead in sin".)

What does it matter? (significance questions)

Q: In light of Ephesians 2:1-3, what would the rest of your life look like if God hadn't rescued you from your sin?

Before you move on to responding to Christ in application, you will want to help your group discover the big idea of the passage. Ask a question that helps them see the central theme or main point of the passage. For example:

Q: In Ephesians 2:1-10, what do you think Paul really wanted these believers to understand about grace?

Heart-level Response Questions

Your teaching will be most effective when it helps expose our Fallen Condition (a heart inclined toward finding life outside of a relationship with Christ) and when it points to Christ for the redemptive solution (chapter 5). Remember, you are not aiming at surface behavior, but rather, heart-level inclinations and motivations.

First, ask a couple questions that help them envision what it would look like to practically live out this passage. For example:

Q: In Ephesians 2:10, we are said to be Christ's workmanship. What should that look like in the life of a believer?

Next, ask a couple questions that expose heart-resistance to Christ. In other words, what is it in our Fallen Condition that is exposed in this passage? For example:

Q: Our culture tells us that we can become anything we want to become. How does this mindset subtly creep into your walk with God?

Next, ask a couple questions that point your group to Christ. What aspect of Christ's redemptive work do they need to believe and embrace in order to experience His grace and healing? For example:

Q: We often seek to control our future; why do we struggle with entrusting this to Christ? How would your life be different if you truly believed Jesus had only your best interest and greatest good in mind?

What you are attempting to do through these questions is to point them away from their natural proclivity to work harder at changing their behavior, and point them to Christ as the only source of growth and life. You can point them to Christ for forgiveness; you can point them to Christ for his empowerment to live the Christian life; you can point them to Christ to find hope in His promises; however you do it, point them to Christ.

Community and Conversation Questions

These are the questions that uncover the meaning of the text, the roots of our sin, and our response to Christ; these are the critical questions. That said, we don't want to undervalue all other types of questions you may ask.

As you ask heart-level questions, your Bible study should grow in authenticity, honesty, and community. But, it's also important to think through questions that are for the sole purpose of generating discussion and adding to the social dimension of the group. These are not insignificant. While your primary focus is for people to encounter Christ, you also need to make sure that they encounter one another, encountering Christ through community.

Becoming a Better Listener

Asking good questions is half the battle to having good discussion. Listening is the other half. When you listen as a leader, it shows you value the opinions and input of the group.

As you become a better listener, your questions become more pertinent and those in your group will more likely participate in the discussion. Here are some tips on how to accomplish this.

- Be an “in-their-shoes” listener, seeing the situation from their perspective. Try to understand the emotion expressed in their comments.
- Be an active listener. Your goal is to understand what the other person is communicating. If you are unclear about what they are trying to say, then rephrase in your own words what you believe was just said. This will give the other person a chance to correct you if you misunderstood the meaning. For example, “I’m not sure I caught that, Kristen. Let me see if I understand you. You think that Christians aren’t lonely because they have a relationship with God. Is that right?”
- Be an encouraging listener. Many people need affirmation of their comments before they’ll feel comfortable sharing anything more. Verbally respond to their questions and answers by saying something positive: “That answer shows you’re thinking.” “Great, that’s right ...” (repeat what they said).

- Be a “total body” listener. Maintain eye contact with the person speaking and be aware of your posture. Certain positions (like crossing your arms or leaning back in your chair) communicate less concern than other positions, like leaning.

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Social Media is Your Friend

Every week we see a new think-piece about the irredeemable evils of social media. And in some ways, yeah, they’re right. But Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, and whatever else they’ve invented in the meantime are also great ways to build connections between the people who come to your Bible Study as well as get the word out. Some ideas and helpful hints:

Before Bible Study...

- **DCP FACEBOOK GROUPS:** Get the word out! Post in the Disney College Program Facebook group and Christian DCP Facebook group about the Bible Study.
- **USE FACEBOOK EVENTS TO YOUR ADVANTAGE:** Cru will create a weekly event for your Bible Study- don’t let this just take up digital space. Every single week, send out invites to every single person who has ever attended as well as your roommates and coworkers.
 - If you haven’t seen someone at the Bible Study in a few weeks, you’re highly encouraged to send them just one private message as well. “Hey ____! Haven’t seen you in a while, so I hope you are doing alright! It was so great meeting you a few weeks ago. I know the College Program is super busy, but I’d love to see you out at Bible Study this (insert day and time.) We miss you.”
(If you think this sounds like you’re pestering them or whatever, think to yourself: “If I went some church and a few weeks later an individual from said church messaged to say they missed me, how would that make me feel?” Probably pretty good, right? Even if you had no intention of ever returning, it’d probably make you feel pretty special to know they’re still thinking of you. So don’t worry about it. It could make all the difference.)

During Bible Study...

- **FRIEND REQUESTS:** At the end of every Bible Study before people leave, Facebook Friend Request everyone in attendance. This will communicate “I consider you a friend,” enable you to invite them out to the Study next week, and help to connect them to Cru.
- **CRU CONNECT AT WDW:** During announcements, promote the “Cru Connect at WDW” Facebook group. It’s a group made specifically for Disney interns in Cru to get plugged into

deeper community. Community doesn't happen 90 minutes a week- it happens over meals and coffees and park hopping and movie nights.

After Bible Study...

- **GROUP MESSAGES:** Facebook message everyone in a group message a follow-up resource or article. This will reinforce the lesson as well as allow others to connect with one another.

Ice Breakers

In case of social emergency, please break:

Rory's Story Cubes

Using the dice, have people share a story from their past, or a dream that they have, or...

Best/Worst

Have each person share their best and worst moments from the previous week. Try to steer the group away from school items. This icebreaker is an easy one to use at first and gives you good feedback concerning their life at the moment. Some veteran groups do this several times a year... the answers become more honest as you go.

Personal Scavenger Hunt

Take 5 minutes and find the following personal photos on their phone: Something that . . .

- You've had a long time.
- You're proud of.
- Reveals a lot about you.
- Reminds you of a fun time.
- Concerns or worries you.

Have each person share the first item. Go around again on the second item, and again until you have gone through each one. Don't feel like you have to use the whole list because it will take too long.

Chart Your Life

Thinking back as far as you can, draw a line graph to represent your life. Consider the high points, the low points, moments of inspiration, moments of despair, leveling off times, and where you are now. The line will probably be a mixture of straight, slanted, jagged and curved lines. After you've drawn it, share what it means to you with the group.

Most Deprived

Buy a large bag of M&M's and give each person the same amount (try 10 M&M's). Start by stating something you've never done that you think everyone else has done (thus the name "Most Deprived"). For example, you might say, "I've never had a birthday party," or some other true statement about yourself that you think everyone else has surely done. Then, everyone who has had a birthday party pays you an M&M. You pay everyone who has not had a party. Keep playing until everyone has a turn or until someone runs out of M&M's. Obviously the idea is to come up with the most M&M's and be most deprived (this activity takes longer).

You Write the Question

Give each person a 3x5 card. You pick the topic and let them write the questions. For example, you choose "friendship" as a topic, and they each write out a question for anyone in the group to answer about friendship. For example, "What do you value most in a friend?" or, "Who was your best friend growing up and why?" Then pile all the cards face down in the middle of the group and let people draw one card to answer. Topic ideas: jobs, life goals, funny stories, hobbies, family, fears, dating issues, significant relationships, relationship with God, etc.

Snack Attack

There's no need to throw together an elaborate 5-course meal. Here are some simple culinary delicacies you can put together to get that needed sugar rush:

- Popcorn and M&M's
- Publix buy one get one free bakery item (just pick whichever is on sale!)
- Homemade cookies (have someone who likes to bake volunteer to make them!)
- Pretzels, strawberries and Nutella to dip
- Chips and salsa
- Ice cream sandwiches or popsicles

Do You Have What It Takes?

Leading a group can be frightening if you focus on the millions of things that could go wrong. Don't worry. God takes pleasure in using people who don't have all the answers, but who are in the process of learning. Perfection is not required. If it were, none of us could lead. What, then, does it take?

Authentically Experiencing Christ (Colossians 3:1-17, Matthew 22:34-40, Ephesians 4:17-5:21)

The character of a group leader is crucial. It's inevitable that members in your group will look to you as a spiritual role model. You know you're not perfect, so take off the pressure and don't even pretend to be perfect. Be real and model an eager desire to grow in your own walk with the Lord. You have the same needs as those in your group: the need to be in God's Word, the need to confess your sins, and the need to daily seek to honor God with your life.

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.” — 1 Timothy 4:12

“Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress.” — 1 Timothy 4:15

Personal progress is the key. No one would ever lead a group if they waited until their character is perfectly godly. On the other hand, if a leader is living in disobedience to the Lord, it will be difficult for those in the group to learn to walk with the Lord.

Jesus taught, “A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher” (Luke 6:40). Jesus did not say, “Everyone, when he is fully trained, will be like his teaching.” It’s sobering, but true, your life will have great influence on the people in your group.

Compassion (Matthew 9:35–38, 1 Thessalonians 2:1–12)

Compassion is emotion turned into action. Sympathy causes us to feel for others, compassion causes us to do something about it. As Jesus viewed the large crowds, He “had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd” (Matthew 9:36). Jesus willingly gave His life for the lost, harassed and helpless—following through on His compassion.

As a small group leader you need compassion for others. You need to truly care about people and be actively involved in giving to them. It’s been said, “People don’t care what you know until they know that you care.” It’s true. Your love and concern speaks as loudly as anything you teach them. Giving and caring for people in your group is one of the greatest privileges and responsibilities of leadership. It’s a key to the success of any group.

What happens when people say they’ll be there but don’t show? Or when something promised doesn’t happen? As the leader your first response might be hurt or anger. Compassion allows you to look past your fear of failing and to the needs and concerns of those group members. It enables you to think: What pressures might they be facing? How can I encourage them? How can I let them know they really are wanted as part of the group? A compassionate leader is focused on the needs of the group members.

Commitment (Colossians 1:28–29, 1 Corinthians 15:58, Acts 20:17–38)

Leading a group takes time, emotional energy and effort. Just like anything else worth doing, there is a cost involved. You are responsible to develop leadership skills. These skills will develop over time, and reading this booklet is a great place to start, but nothing takes the place of actually learning as you go. It is worth it to see God transform lives.

Sometimes your small group will flourish, and you’ll think this is the greatest thing you’ve ever done. At other times you might wonder how you ever got to be captain of this sinking ship. Commitment will keep you trusting the Lord and sticking it out. Just think, at one point even Paul wrote, “Demas, because he has loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone

to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me” (2 Timothy 4:10,11). Everybody left Paul but Luke. Paul knew what it was like to stick it out!

Sometimes individuals in your group might disappoint you, hurt your feelings, or totally blow you off. It’s tough being involved with people because they are fickle and sinful (as you are sometimes). But they’re worth it.

Conclusion

The prerequisites to leading a small group—godly character, compassion, commitment—are areas which can progressively develop in each of us over time. As you depend upon the Lord to use you, He makes you adequate. Paul sets forth faithfulness, not giftedness, as the prerequisite for those who are to teach others in 2 Timothy 2:2. God is looking for men and women who fear Him and walk humbly before Him. These are “competent” group leaders.

God doesn’t measure your success by how many students you recruit to go to conferences or by how many stick with your groups. Your success as a group leader is ultimately measured by Jesus Christ. He simply wants you to use your unique gifts and abilities to step out in faith and teach others about Him.

People are God’s ultimate concern. When Jesus returns, He will not come back for libraries, cars or the Grand Canyon. He will come back for people. When God became man, He said His purpose was to “seek and save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10). He was talking about people. His heart for people is so contagious that those who follow Him become “shepherds of men” (Matthew 4:19). As a small group leader, you have the great privilege of being involved with that which is dearest to God—people.

Go ahead. Change the world. Disney and otherwise.