

LEADERS GUIDE

WALKING AS JESUS WALKED

MAKING DISCIPLES THE WAY JESUS DID



DENNIS MOORE

WELCOME

TO THE WALKING AS JESUS WALKED LEADERS GUIDE!

The purpose of this guide is to help you and your group members experience life change through relationships. The leaders guide will be using a learning model called the Liquid Method.

WHAT IS THE LIQUID METHOD?

It is a learning model for small groups where discovery is the central means by which learning takes place. God's Word is the source of truth and the Holy Spirit is the guide and revealer of all truth. This learning model creates a safe environment for real, life-changing discussion about God's truth.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF THE LIQUID METHOD?

On the blog Small Group Connections with Andy Stallings, he lists several advantages for using this discovery learning model. The Liquid Method:

1. Values members because they are free to share their questions, concerns, struggles and real life challenges.
2. Provides biblical answers to real life issues in an encouraging, supportive environment of friends.
3. Provides feedback to group facilitators/disciplers from individuals—it makes knowing a person's spiritual condition possible.
4. Fosters real spiritual growth through the application of God's truth in one's life.
5. Allows for non-threatening accountability for personal growth.
6. Connects members and newcomers in engaging conversations that provide instant friendships.
7. Allows people to interact with God's Word themselves and not through a "teacher."

8. Helps people see the relevance of Scripture in everyday life.
9. Provides group leaders with opportunities to listen to participants respond to God's Word and shepherd and affirm them naturally.
10. Allows group members to interact and learn from each other.
11. Allows discussions to never get old because they're centered on God's Word. The discussions are always fresh as individuals and groups encounter Scripture at different places in life.
12. Is fun and creates an environment of laughter, safe and honest communication, and growing friendships.

HOW DOES THE LIQUID METHOD WORK?

Andy Stallings explains that the Liquid Method is four simple questions (Lean In, Look Down, Look Out, and Look In) that take participants through the process of observing, understanding, and applying God's Word to life in a way that is both relational and relevant. For the *Walking as Jesus Walked* study, we have slightly modified this method by incorporating two action steps we call Look Up and Live it Out. These steps enhance the learning experience with praying together, sharing what you discovered with others, and putting what you learned into action.

Stallings explains the Liquid Method in this way, "At first glance, you may be tempted to think these questions are too shallow or that they don't take you deep enough into Scripture. You might think "this is too repetitive," but try it and stick with it. Once you grasp the strategy behind the questions, you'll find that they offer a very different kind of experience. As participants respond to the questions, God's Word begins to open up and the Holy Spirit uses the

collective knowledge of the group to help everyone in the group learn. It's that simple—it's not limited to a single teacher, a single curriculum, or a single personality. Not only do group members learn what God says in His Word, but they also see firsthand what He does in the lives of His people."

HOW DO THE FOUR QUESTIONS WORK?

Andy Stallings describes how each of these questions forms the foundation for this small group learning model:

1. Lean In

The purpose of this question is to get everyone in your small group to "lean in" and get involved. It's easy to answer and fun. It creates a sense of energy—so much so that group members physically lean in as they engage the discussion. The "lean in" question also frequently provides an emotional link to the "Look In" question. It also provides safety for answering the question and sets the tone for the rest of the study.

2. Look Down

This is an observation question. It's designed to help group members "look down" and see all the relevant details and facts in the Bible passage being studied. This question establishes a solid foundation for the rest of the study. Regardless of how much time someone has spent studying God's Word, everyone in the group can get involved simply by taking an observant look at what the Bible says. This question is answerable by anyone solely based on their observation of the passage without requiring any prior knowledge or reference to other related texts. No Bible college degree is required.

3. Look Out

This question helps group members "look out" and see the principles of the Bible passage through the lens of the world today. The answers are not focused on your group members but on other people. This will lead to more authentic dialogue within the group. It builds a bridge between the facts of the passage and our understanding of it as it relates to our world and our culture. It also helps individuals see the effect and

the result of those who pay attention to and those who ignore the importance of God's Word in our culture.

4. Look In

Here is where group members begin to personally "look in" and see what God might be nudging them to change in their lives. During this part of the study, group members begin to move from knowing to doing what God's Word says. It's about obedience. The goal of all Bible study is life transformation.

NOTE: Small group leaders should write down responses of group members and ask them for permission to follow up with them in a week or so to see how they're doing with their new commitment.

HOW DO THE TWO ACTION STEPS WORK?

5. Look Up

The purpose of this action step is to get everyone in your small group to "look up" to God and pray together. It is a time of praise and prayer for everyone. This is where group members transition from the "look in" question where God may have been nudging them to change something in their lives to humbly asking God to help them do so. The group leader's role in this step is to give the Holy Spirit enough space to do His life-transforming work in the lives of the group members.

6. Live It Out

The final step is to get everyone in your small group to "live it out." That is to share what they discovered with others and to put it into action what they just learned. During this part of the study, group members are challenged to go out and share what they've just discovered about Jesus with at least two other people. Next, they are challenged to put God's Word into action in a very practical way. Finally, the group members are given instructions on how to prepare for the next time together.

As you lead your group through the "Walk as Jesus Walked" study, we trust that God will reveal Himself to you in very special ways.

So, let's get started...

WALKING AS JESUS WALKED *(90 min.)*

UNIT # 1

Big Idea: Jesus fully intended for us to walk as He walked.

LEAN IN

Get started with fun, easy, and engaging questions
(10 min.)

When we look back on our childhood, I think most everyone has at least one time where we tried to walk in someone else's shoes. Maybe it was your mom or dad. Or, quite possibly it was a big brother or big sister. It might have even been someone you admired and wanted to be just like him or her.

Discuss: Who was that person? Why did you want to walk in his/her shoes?

LOOK DOWN

Find the answers in the Scripture passages
(25 min.)

Have different people look up John 13:14, 34, 14:12, 15:10; 1 John 2:6; 1 Peter 2:21 and read them aloud.

Discuss: What did Jesus intend for His disciples to do? What did John and Peter expect of those people who were disciples of Jesus?

LOOK OUT

Connect the world of the Bible to our culture
(10 min.)

In our culture, most Christians are more than willing to accept Jesus as the payment for their sins. However, there are fewer Christians who seem willing to make Jesus the pattern for their lives.

Discuss: What do you think prevents Christians from making the Incarnate Jesus the pattern for their lives?

LOOK IN

Go straight to the heart of the matter
(30 min.)

Read aloud 1 John 2:1-10.

Discuss: Who do you now pattern your life after? Why? What needs to change in your heart and habits to set in motion or to enhance your priority to "walk as Jesus walked"?

LOOK UP

Pray together
(10 min.)

Spend some time praising Jesus for being both the payment for our sins and the pattern for our lives.

LIVE IT OUT

Share what you discovered with others and put it into action *(5 min.)*

1. Go out and share what you discovered about *Walking as Jesus Walked* with at least two other people. This could be a family member, co-worker, or friend.
2. This week, spend some time each day reflecting on how different your life would be if you depended on Jesus to help you "walk as He walked."
3. For our next time together: Complete Unit #2 How Real is Your Jesus? on pp. 19-32.

HOW REAL IS YOUR JESUS? (90 min.)

UNIT # 2

Big Idea: Jesus didn't use the God Card to show us we can walk as He walked.

LEAN IN

Get started with fun, easy, and engaging questions
(10 min.)

Did any of you ever grow up in a family where you had a brother or sister who was always the 'perfect one'? What was that like?

LOOK DOWN

Find the answers in the Scripture passages
(25 min.)

Read Matt 13:53-57. What would it have been like as a brother or sister of Jesus—or as His parents—to have Jesus in the family?

Have different people look up these verses and read them aloud: Luke 2:7, 11, 52; Matthew 4:1-2; John 4:4-7; Isaiah 53:1-4; Philippians 2:5-7; John 11:32-36; John 19:28-30; Hebrews 2:14-18.

Discuss: What do these Scripture passages tell us about the humanity of Jesus?

LOOK OUT

Connect the world of the Bible to our culture
(10 min.)

Today, most Christians don't have a problem with the idea that Jesus is God. They have problems with the idea that Jesus veiled His deity so that His humanity could be fully expressed. How often have you heard, "But of course Jesus could do that; He's God"? Even during the early days of the Church, many people also had the same problem. Back then, there were people

who also believed that Jesus was God, but since they believed that, they had trouble believing that Jesus was fully human.

Discuss: Do you think that most Christians you know have trouble believing that Jesus was fully human? Why or why not?

LOOK IN

Go straight to the heart of the matter
(30 min.)

Read aloud 1 John 2:3-6.

Discuss: If Jesus went through life using the "God Card", would He have been like us in every way? How does this change your view of Jesus?

LOOK UP

Pray together
(10 min.)

Spend some time praising Jesus that He showed us that we can walk as He walked.

LIVE IT OUT

Share what you discovered with others and put it into action (5 min.)

1. Go out and share what you discovered about the full humanity of Jesus with at least two other people. This could be a family member, co-worker, or friend.
2. This week, remember to check in with the person you shared your response to the "Look In" question. Encourage each other and pray together that you'll both grow in your obedience to Jesus so that you're *Walking as Jesus Walked*.
3. For our next time together: Complete Unit #3 Jesus and the Holy Spirit on pp. 33-45.

JESUS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT *(90 min.)*

UNIT # 3

Big Idea: Jesus depended on the Holy Spirit to show us that we can walk as He walked.

LEAN IN

Get started with fun, easy, and engaging questions
(10 min.)

As a child I couldn't wait to grow up and gain independence from my parents. But now as an adult I realize that my childhood dependence on my parents afforded me far more freedom and independence than I actually have now. How can that be?

Discuss: How is it possible to be both dependent and independent at the same time?

LOOK DOWN

Find the answers in the Scripture passages
(25 min.)

Have different people look up these verses and read them aloud: John 14:12-14; John 15:7-8; John 15:5-8; John 15:14-17; John 16:23-26.

Discuss: Jesus tells us to ask for some amazing things in these Scripture passages that were just read. What could happen if we took Jesus at His word?

LOOK OUT

Connect the world of the Bible to our culture
(10 min.)

When reading through Acts you won't be able to miss the early church's dependence on the Holy Spirit for many things. The Holy Spirit empowered Peter with words to say (Acts 4:8); He enabled believers to speak boldly in the name of Christ (Acts 4:31); He encouraged the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria (Acts 9:31); He gave the church at Antioch specific instructions of what they were to

do concerning Barnabas and Saul (Acts 13:2); and He warned Paul of impending trouble (Acts 20:23). The early church depended on the Holy Spirit for the continuation of Jesus' mission.

Discuss: Do most Christians you know believe they have the same Holy Spirit in them that the early church depended on? Why or why not?

LOOK IN

Go straight to the heart of the matter
(30 min.)

Based on the Scripture passages that were read in the "Look Down" section, share your response to these questions.

Discuss: In what ways do you underestimate what Jesus wants to accomplish through you? What keeps you from taking Jesus at His word?

LOOK UP

Pray together
(10 min.)

Spend some time praising Jesus that He showed us that we can walk as He walked when we depend on the Holy Spirit as He did.

LIVE IT OUT

Share what you discovered with others and put it into action (5 min.)

1. Go out and share what you learned about Jesus' dependence on the Holy Spirit with at least two other people. This could be a family member, co-worker, or friend.
2. This week, spend some time each day reflecting on how different your life would be if you depended on the Holy Spirit to help you "walk as Jesus walked."
3. For our next time together: Complete Unit #4 Praying as Jesus Prayed on pp. 46-56.

PRAYING AS JESUS PRAYED *(90 min.)*

UNIT # 4

Big Idea: Jesus depended on prayerful guidance to show us that we can walk as He walked.

LEAN IN

Get started with fun, easy, and engaging questions
(10 min.)

Each and every day we depend on certain things to get us through our daily lives. For some, it may be just one thing, but for others, it could be several things.

Discuss: What are some things that you depend upon every day? Why are you so dependent on these particular things?

LOOK DOWN

Find the answers in the Scripture passages
(25 min.)

Have different people look up these verses and read them aloud: Psalm 5:1-3, 11-12; Mark 1:32-39; Luke 5:15-16; Matthew 26:36-44; Luke 22:39-46.

Discuss: What do these Scripture passages tell us about the habits of Jesus? About His daily patterns? How is prayer connected to learning obedience (See Mt. 26:39, 42)?

LOOK OUT

Connect the world of the Bible to our culture
(10 min.)

Just as the early church depended on the Holy Spirit, you can't miss its dependence on prayer. They all joined together in prayer when making major decisions (Acts 1:14, 24); when they faced persecution (Acts 4:18-31; 7:59); and when faced with imprisonment (Acts 12:5; 16:25). Furthermore, Jews and Gentiles alike prayed. Peter was on the rooftop praying (Acts 10:9) and Cornelius was praying

simultaneously (Acts 10:30-31). The early church was undoubtedly a praying church.

Discuss: Do you think most Christians you know believe they have the same power available to them through prayer as the early church had? Why or why not?

LOOK IN

Go straight to the heart of the matter
(30 min.)

Based on the Scripture passages that were read in the "Look Down" section, share your response to this question.

Discuss: To "walk as Jesus walked" in the area of prayer, what do you need to adjust in your life to be more like Jesus?

LOOK UP

Pray together
(10 min.)

Spend some time praising Jesus that He showed us that we can walk as He walked when we depend on prayerful guidance as He did.

LIVE IT OUT

Share what you discovered with others and put it into action
(5 min.)

1. Go out and share what you learned about Jesus' dependence on prayerful guidance with at least two other people.
2. This week, spend some time each day "praying as Jesus prayed" as often as needed about anything that you need guidance from God about.
3. For our next time together: Complete Unit #5 Obeying as Jesus Obeyed on pp. 57-68.

OBEYING AS JESUS OBEYED *(90 min.)*

UNIT # 5

Big Idea: Jesus obeyed with perfect obedience to show us that we can walk as He walked.

LEAN IN

Get started with fun, easy, and engaging questions
(10 min.)

I don't know about you, but when I was growing up I had plenty of opportunities to demonstrate my obedience to my parents. One of the simple things my parents expected of me was to come immediately when they called my name. Unlike other neighbor children, I was not to ask what my parents wanted first—I was just expected to come running home immediately. Of course, there were times where it was harder to obey (like when I was playing a favorite game). However, my parents loved me and held me accountable to complete obedience. I learned that partial obedience was disobedience. I remember hearing from my parents, "Don't tell me you love me. Show me." What they taught me is that obedience is the truest measure of love. I am forever grateful for their training in obedience.

Discuss: Share a time when obeying your parents was difficult for you, but you obeyed anyway.

LOOK DOWN

Find the answers in the Scripture passages
(25 min.)

Have different people look up these verses and read them aloud: John 5:19, 30; John 8:27-29; John 14:28-31; Hebrews 5:7-8.

Discuss: When Jesus began His ministry, He still continued His lifestyle of reverent submission. How does Jesus describe the manner in which He obeyed His Father?

Have different people look up these verses and read them aloud: Matthew 16:21-23 and John 10:17-18; John 13:12-17; Matthew 26:36-39.

Discuss: The kind of obedience that Jesus practiced rarely led to comfort and convenience, prosperity, or personal pleasure. His ministry to others came from a healthy sense of obedience to His Father's kingdom agenda. His obedience involved suffering, sacrifice and servanthood. What do the verses we just read tell us about this reality of Jesus' obedience?

LOOK OUT

Connect the world of the Bible to our culture
(10 min.)

Throughout the Old Testament, we have several examples of half-hearted obedience. Partial obedience is disobedience. There is probably no example so graphic, in both seriousness and consequences, as what we see in the account of Saul in 1 Samuel 15 (God rejected Saul as Israel's king because of Saul's disobedience). However, as Jesus is described in Philippians 2, we see a glimpse of perfect obedience. The extent to which Jesus obeyed was complete in every way. Jesus' life of humility and obedience is the pattern for the way we are intended to live. This is what it means to be fully human.

Discuss: Do you think that most Christians you know believe that Jesus expects them to trust and obey all of His commands? Why or why not?

LOOK IN

Go straight to the heart of the matter
(30 min.)

Read aloud Philippians 2:1-18. For Jesus it seems that the pleasure of obedience far exceeded any pleasure that disobedience could ever bring. Based on Philippians 2, share your response to this question.

OBEYING AS JESUS OBEYED *(continued)*

UNIT #5

Discuss: What do you need to change in your life to reflect more of Christ's obedience and to obey as He obeyed?

LOOK UP

Pray together

(10 min.)

Spend some time praising Jesus that He showed us we can obey as He obeyed.

LIVE IT OUT

Share what you discovered with others and put it into action

(5 min.)

1. Go out and share what you learned about Jesus' perfect obedience with at least two other people.
2. This week, spend some time each day reflecting on how different your life would be if you "obeyed as Jesus obeyed."
3. For our next time together: Complete Unit #6 Jesus and the Word of God on pp. 69-80.

JESUS AND THE WORD OF GOD *(90 min.)*

UNIT # 6

Big Idea: Jesus obeyed God's Word in every area of His life and ministry so that we can walk as He walked in obedience to God's Word and will.

LEAN IN

Get started with fun, easy, and engaging questions
(10 min.)

GPS coordinates are incredibly important in everyday life but few people know exactly what they stand for and how they work. GPS stands for Global Positioning System and it is a series of U.S.-based global navigation satellites situated in space. By using signals provided from these satellites, users are able to determine reliable positioning, navigation and timing data at all times of the day. A wide variety of devices—including mobile phones, in-car navigation systems and GPS locaters—decode GPS coordinates for us in terms we can understand. Most of us are probably most familiar with the usage of GPS in our vehicles. There are many funny GPS stories on the internet. Maybe even you have one?

Discuss: Share an experience (good, bad, or funny) you have had in using a GPS unit.

LOOK DOWN

Find the answers in the Scripture passages
(25 min.)

Just as a GPS unit uses three coordinates to guide someone in finding a specific location, Jesus depended on the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, and prayer to see and interpret reality in a perfect way.

Have different people look up these Scripture passages and read them aloud: John 7:16-18; John 8:25-29; John 12:47-50; John 14:23-26; John 15:5-8,

15-16; John 17:6-9.

Discuss: Jesus' obedience to God's Word gave Him the ability to see and interpret reality with such clarity that He was able to understand His Father's plan and carry it out. God's Word is the truth. Jesus' reality was rooted in the truth. He even stated that He is the Truth (John 14:6). In that way, Truth is a person. What do these verses just read aloud tell us about Jesus' attitude toward God's written Word?

LOOK OUT

Connect the world of the Bible to our culture
(10 min.)

During the reign of Herod, the Pharisees instituted a program to educate every boy in Israel. Of course, this was an entirely religious education. At the age of five, boys were sent to school to learn how to read so they could understand the Scriptures. These schools were run by the local synagogue. This education ended at age 13 when the boy reached puberty and legally became a man. By then, he was expected to have memorized most, if not all, of the Hebrew Scriptures. The most astute youths could continue on with further education. (1983: Connolly, p. 53)

Discuss: Albert M. Wells Jr. stated, "The man who doesn't read his Bible has no advantage over the man who has no Bible." Do you think most Christians you know are more like the Jewish youths who learned the Hebrew Scriptures or the man who doesn't read his Bible? Why or why not?

LOOK IN

Go straight to the heart of the matter
(30 min.)

Jesus, in His full humanity, was dependent upon His Father to teach and guide Him in His next steps in carrying out the Father's plan.

JESUS AND THE WORD OF GOD *(continued)*

UNIT #6

Discuss: How do you need to reprioritize your life so that you can walk as Jesus walked in submission and obedience to God's Word? What is one thing you can begin doing tomorrow that will move you in that direction?

LOOK UP

Pray together

(10 min.)

Spend some time praising Jesus that He showed us that we can submit and obey God's Word as He did.

LIVE IT OUT

Share what you discovered with others and put it into action

(5 min.)

1. Go out and share what you learned about Jesus' passion for God's written Word with at least two other people.
2. This week, spend some time each day reading and obeying God's Word as Jesus did.
3. For our next time together: Complete Unit #7 Exalting the Father on pp. 81-92.

EXALTING THE FATHER *(90 min.)*

UNIT # 7

Big Idea: Jesus gave us a pattern to follow so we can exalt the Father in all that we do.

LEAN IN

Get started with fun, easy, and engaging questions
(10 min.)

Option 1: Think of a person from your past (or present, if applicable) who seemed to exhibit genuine humility. What did that humility look like? What do you think made him or her that way?

Option 2: Share a time when you had a humorous experience that was humbling.

LOOK DOWN

Find the answers in the Scripture passages
(25 min.)

As Christ followers we have to ask ourselves these questions: Does the pattern of my life exalt the Lord in all things or does it emphasize performance for God? Does my teaching exalt the Lord and focus upon who God is and what He has done for me or am I centered on myself? The pattern that Jesus modeled for us is one of true, biblical worship. His pattern produces genuine peace that passes all understanding. Life is not about us and what we're doing for God, but rather it's about exalting what the Lord has done for us.

Read and Share: Beginning in Ephesians 1, read aloud through Chapter 3 (or as far as you can in the time allowed). As this passage is being read aloud, pause when you come across something that the Lord has done for us. (Remember: In Days #3 and #4 you were asked to go through Ephesians 1-3 and list all the things that God has done for us.)

LOOK OUT

Connect the world of the Bible to our culture
(10 min.)

What we do comes from a proper concept of God's character—who He is and what He's done for us. This can be seen throughout the Scriptures. Prior to God giving Moses the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20, the Scriptures emphasize who God is and what He had done for His people. Later, the Prophet Isaiah said, "Here am I. Send me!" (Isa. 6:8). His response came from his knowledge of who God was when Isaiah "... saw the Lord" (Isa. 6:1). The Apostle Paul also laid a solid foundation of God's character in Romans 1-12 before he urges total commitment "in view of God's mercy" from the brethren in Rome (Rom. 12:1-2). Paul also listed over thirty gifts that God has given us in Christ in the first three chapters of Ephesians before he shifted the emphasis to what he says in Eph. 4:1: "As a prisoner for the Lord, then I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received." Jesus also knew that it was critical for His disciples to be "rooted and built up in Him" if they were to "overflow in thankfulness" for Him (Col. 2:7).

Discuss: In light of having a proper concept of God's character, what happens in the lives of Christians who fail to acknowledge God as the source of everything?

LOOK IN

Go straight to the heart of the matter
(30 min.)

Every part of Jesus' life exalted the Father and His union with His Father. In the same way, we are to exalt the Father in everything that we do. We do this by following the example that Jesus set for us.

EXALTING THE FATHER *(continued)*

UNIT #7

Share: What would happen in your life if you began to acknowledge God the Father as the source of everything that you have and do?

LOOK UP

Pray together

(10 min.)

Spend some time praising the Lord for who He is and what He has done us.

LIVE IT OUT

Share what you discovered with others and put it into action

(5 min.)

1. Go out and share with at least two other people what you learned about how Jesus understood the priority of exalting His father as the source of everything.
2. This week, spend some time living out the priority of exalting the Father as the source of everything in your home, where you work, and where you play.
3. For our next time together: Complete Unit #8 Intentional Loving Relationships on pp. 93-105.

INTENTIONAL LOVING RELATIONSHIPS *(90 min.)*

UNIT # 8

Big Idea: Jesus gave us a pattern for establishing intentional loving relationships (Eternal CPR) so we can be a “friend of sinners” to those God brings across our paths.

LEAN IN

Get started with fun, easy, and engaging questions *(15 min.)*

Who am I?: Use famous friendships to match couples in your small group. You can use the list of famous friendships in the list below. While this list is certainly not complete, it’s a start. If you have some famous friendships that are better known by your group, use those instead.

Directions: As people arrive, stick a name tag or sticker with a famous name on each person’s back. Don’t tell them that these are pairs of friends. Their task is to mingle around asking “yes” or “no” questions to discover what character is written on their name tag. After a brief time of mingling, have each person find his or her “friend” and share a quality they look for in a friend. (The Three Stooges are included in case you have an odd number of people.)

Tom & Jerry	Jesus & John	Snoopy & Charlie	Abbott & Costello
Laurel & Hardy	Batman & Robin	Lone Ranger & Tonto	David & Jonathan
Fred Flintstone & Barney Rubble	Luke Skywalker & Han Solo	Tom Sawyer & Huckleberry Finn	Frodo Baggins & Samwise Gamgee
Gumby & Pokey	Rocky & Bullwinkle	Chip & Dale	Snoopy & Woodstock
Lois Lane & Clark Kent	Sherlock Holmes & Dr. Watson	Captain Kirk & Dr. Spock	Curly & Larry & Moe
Calvin & Hobbes	Laverne & Shirley	Chip & Dale	Bert & Ernie

LOOK DOWN

Find the answers in the Scripture passages *(20 min.)*

Jesus is described as one who came “full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). His actions even demonstrated that grace and truth flowed from the fullness of His humanity (Luke 4:14-24). Jesus made it a priority to spend time with His disciples (John 3:22) for the purpose of developing friendships with them. In Day #4 you learned about the progression in the disciples’ relationship with Him. Not only did Jesus grow in His relationships with the disciples, but the Scriptures also record that Jesus was called a friend of sinners (Matthew 9:10-13, 11:18-19; Luke 15:1-2).

To walk as Jesus walked in intentional relationships demands that our relationships are saturated with Christ’s love. Anything less than intentional, loving relationships misses the whole point of *Walking as Jesus Walked*. First Corinthians 13 describes godly love—Christ’s love in action.

Read aloud: 1 Cor. 13:4-7.

Discuss: Since this passage describes Jesus’ walk, what do these verses tell us about what Jesus’ love was and was not? If possible, think of a time in Jesus’ life when He demonstrated each of these truths with His disciples.

LOOK OUT

Connect the world of the Bible to our culture *(20 min.)*

Not only did Jesus intentionally become a “friend of sinners,” but we see how He moved those relationships forward in very practical ways. His missions trip to Samaria (John 4) was just one example of the extent of Jesus’ love for sinners. On this trip, Jesus demonstrated a process we like to call Eternal CPR. This process uses familiar agricultural

INTENTIONAL LOVING RELATIONSHIPS *(continued)*

UNIT # 8

metaphors that are seen in John 4:4-42. As you learned in Day #5, Eternal CPR is the cultivating, planting and reaping of a relationship moving toward Christ. (Refresh your memory about Eternal CPR by re-reading the third paragraph on p. 104.)

Eternal CPR is a reproducible process—one that helps us develop intentional loving relationships as Jesus did. Cultivating helps you become a friend of sinners. Planting is when you place the seeds of truth into your friendships at the right time and in the right way. Reaping is clearly and concisely presenting the good news of salvation to your friends and calling for a response.

Read & Discuss: Since Eternal CPR helps us walk as Jesus walked, we need to gain a better understanding of how this process works. Read aloud Isaiah 28:23-29. What verses describe the cultivating process? The planting process? The reaping process? What can we learn here that will help us in intentionally loving those people God brings across our paths?

LOOK IN

Go straight to the heart of the matter
(20 min.)

What is the most difficult aspect of the Eternal CPR process for you? Why?

LOOK UP

Pray together
(10 min.)

Spend some time praising the Lord for showing us how to develop intentional, loving relationships. Ask Him to help you move forward in your relationship with one of your non-Christian friends.

LIVE IT OUT

Share what you discovered with others and put it into action
(5 min.)

1. Go out and share with at least two other people what you learned about how Jesus became a “friend of sinners” and how we can become one also by using Eternal CPR.
2. This week, pick one of your non-Christian friends you listed in Day #4 and do something to move that friendship forward by practicing Eternal CPR.
3. For our next time together: Complete Unit #9 Investing in a Few on pp. 106-115.

INVESTING IN A FEW *(90 min.)*

UNIT # 9

Big Idea: Jesus gave us a pattern for investing in a few so we can repair and prepare our few for the work of the ministry.

LEAN IN

Get started with fun, easy, and engaging questions
(10 min.)

In recent years, many of the comic book superheroes have been made into big budget Hollywood movies: Batman, Iron Man, Spiderman, Superman, The Fantastic Four, The Hulk, and many others. People of all ages know and love their favorite superhero. Many of us even wish we could trade places with our favorite superhero even if it was only for a day. What kind of super powers do you want? Do you want to scale tall buildings on a single bound? Do you want to fly like a bird or would you rather swing from building to building? We all seem to dream about overcoming our human limitations.

Directions: Have your group members share their answers to as many of these questions as time allows. You may want to pick two of these to get started.

Share: If you could be any superhero, who would it be? Explain why. If you could have one super power, what would it be? What would be the first thing you would do with your new super power? How would you use your new power for good?

LOOK DOWN

Find the answers in the Scripture passages
(25 min.)

After Jesus concluded the first eighteen months of His ministry, He made an intentional shift of emphasis from the masses to the “few.” Jesus singled out four men—Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John—and challenged them to a deeper level of involvement

with Himself. For the remainder of His ministry, He chose to prioritize His time with a few men. Let’s take a look at what Christ did with these four disciples. Read aloud: Mark 1:21-38.

Discuss: Since this passage describes Jesus’ priority of “investing in a few,” what do these verses tell us about where you find Jesus and what He is doing with His disciples? What was Jesus modeling for the “few” in this passage?

LOOK OUT

Connect the world of the Bible to our culture *(20 min.)*

Unlike John the Baptist, Jesus didn’t wait for people to come to him at some chosen site. According to the traditions of his day, potential disciples selected a rabbi to learn from and become like. However, Jesus took the initiative by selecting His own disciples (Mark 1:16-20). *Walking as Jesus Walked* can be very practical when we understand that our greatest impact in life will not be made among the masses, but rather in the few people we pour our lives into. Investing in a few can liberate us from the tyranny of trying to please everyone. Jesus understood this priority very well.

Discuss: Today, most Christians have difficulty grasping this priority of “investing in a few.” What keeps most people from going deeper with just “the few”?

LOOK IN

Go straight to the heart of the matter
(20 min.)

In Day #3 you read Mark 7:17-18 and saw how Jesus cared enough to confront His disciples by getting alone with them. Read aloud Proverbs 9:7-12. Share a time when someone cared enough to confront you. How did you respond?

INVESTING IN A FEW *(continued)*

UNIT #9

LOOK UP

Pray together

(10 min.)

Spend some time praising the Lord for showing us how we can invest in a few and begin our own movement of multiplication. Ask Him to show us what is keeping us from denying ourselves and following Jesus.

LIVE IT OUT

Share what you discovered with others and put it into action

(5 min.)

1. Go out and share with at least two other people what you learned about how Jesus invested in a few and how He wants us to follow His pattern.
2. This week, pray daily that God will show you what is keeping you from denying yourself and following Jesus.
3. For our next time together: Complete Unit #10 Jesus and Multiplication on pp. 116-122.

JESUS AND MULTIPLICATION *(90 min.)*

UNIT # 10

Big Idea: Jesus gave us a pattern for multiplication so we can walk as He walked.

LEAN IN

Get started with fun, easy, and engaging questions
(10 min.)

If you were a fruit tree, what kind of fruit tree would you be? Why?

LOOK DOWN

Find the answers in the Scripture passages
(25 min.)

Read aloud The Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14–30 and The Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13:1–9. What does Jesus tell us about the principle of multiplication in this passage?

LOOK OUT

Connect the world of the Bible to our culture
(20 min.)

This week we looked at what Jesus said about bearing much fruit. People in His day were very familiar with vineyards and what it took to bear much fruit. However, that is not the case today. The explosive multiplication in the number of disciples after Pentecost seems evidence enough that Jesus' disciples reached the much fruit stage.

Discuss: In Day 4, we learned that fewer than three percent of Christians ever feel they arrive at the much fruit stage. Why do you think this is? What is God's stated desire for each of us (see John 15:8)?

LOOK IN

Go straight to the heart of the matter
(20 min.)

At which level of fruit-bearing do you feel you are living at today? What do you think is the Lord's next step for you?

LOOK UP

Pray together
(10 min.)

Spend some time praising the Lord for showing us how we can invest in a few and begin our own movement of multiplication. Ask Him to show us who we could lead through this study.

LIVE IT OUT

Share what you discovered with others and put it into action
(5 min.)

1. Go out and share with at least two other people what you learned about how Jesus gave us a pattern for multiplication so we can walk as He walked.
2. This week, invite someone to go through this study with you.