



COMMUNITY GROUPS

SANTA CRUZ BIBLE CHURCH

Going Further: Learning to Walk In the Way of Jesus

VISION: The Lion Sees With Focus

February 16, 2020

Passages

- Primary passage: Mark 2:1-12
- 1 John 4:16-21
- James 5:13-20

Questions

- Opener:
 - Who's "been there" for you in your life? What was that like to know someone had your back?
 - Have you ever had the opportunity to serve someone who couldn't do things for themselves? What was that experience like?
- Share Experience:
 - On Sunday, Richard talked about the 4 men who helped the paralytic in Mark 2, describing them as the Fellowship of the Mat. They did what was necessary to bring their friend to Jesus. Who were those people in your life? Describe what the process of someone bringing you to Jesus was like.
 - Have you ever been a part of helping someone "Find Home" in Jesus? What was that process like?
 - Can you share any stories about ways you've seen God answer your prayers?
 - Richard also talked this Sunday about how we all have a "mat". It's our place of brokenness and need that only Jesus can heal. Keeping in mind that this is a safe space and everyone here has a "mat", what's that place in your life?
 - Is there someone in your life right now who you feel called to help them carry their burdens? Tell us about that situation. What are ways you may have an opening to go and love them?
- Dig Into:
 - Do you think praying for people does any good? If yes, why? If no, why not?
 - Ian Maclaren once said, "Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a great battle." How true does this seem to you? How would being mindful of this change your daily interactions?
 - Why do you think the New Testament writers place such a big emphasis on love as the defining mark of followers of Jesus? What would change in our world today if we were known for this?

Creative Ideas

- Take time during the group to make sure everyone has a Go Love Card (Extras available at the SCBC office this week.) If people haven't already, give people 5-10 minutes to fill out their Go Love Cards. Then break up into groups of 2-3 to pray for the people on the cards.
- Listen to the song *Take To the World* by Derek Webb (See additional resources below). What thoughts and feelings does this song stir in you? Did any particular line stick out to you? Why?

Practices

- Commit to pray daily for each person on your Go Love Card. Then commit to looking for one tangible next step you can take to love them so they ultimately Find Home in Jesus.
- From your CG, form a group of 2-3 who will commit to praying regularly for people in your life far from Jesus and help you take next steps to love those same people.

Additional Resources

- The questions at the end are fantastic! <https://timchester.wordpress.com/2016/03/21/following-up-the-sermon-in-small-groups/>
- Song: *Take To the World* by Derek Webb - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8DZwZlbc3Mk>

How to use this Walking in the Way Guide

1. It's important to know that there's more material here than any one group can cover in one night. Please DO NOT try to get through every scripture passage, question, and creative idea. That is a recipe for discouragement and burnout!
2. Do use this guide as a way to spark some discussion following from last Sunday's message. As the Community Group Leader, you know your group the best. Select which elements from this guide would be most helpful and relevant to your group!
3. **Scripture:** We will always give two or more passages of scripture that are relevant to the topic from Sunday's sermon. Ideally select one passage and stay there. Use only two at the most. You may want to have someone read the passage out loud and then work through the questions from the *5 Questions to Ask When Reading Your Bible* guide below. This is a great resource to print out and give to every member of your Community Group to help guide their own Bible reading at home!
4. **Questions:** There are more questions here than you'll likely be able to get through in one night. Select some questions you think might resonate with your group and throw questions to the group for discussion until one really takes off! You know a good discussion is happening when group members are interacting with and responding to what each other is saying and not just what is coming from you as the group leader!
5. **Creative Ideas:** If you feel it will help your group, select one of these creative ideas to help your group process and interact with the theme for this week. Feel free to add in your own creative ideas as well!!
6. **Practices:** This is how we grow in grace! Practices are what move a good discussion from merely interesting to life transforming. These sample practices are given to help you and the group live into the reality that was talked about on Sunday and that you interacted with in Scripture this week. **Choose one or (at most) two practices that you as a group will commit to doing this next week to live into God's truth.** As you come back next week, debrief how those practices went the previous week!
7. **Sample Schedule:** Here's a sample timeline for how to budget your time for a Community Group meeting. Keep in mind, this is a suggestion, not a rule to follow. **Do what works best for your community!**
 - **Arrival:** Catching up and Snacks - 15 min
 - **Intro:** See how everyone's doing. Maybe throw out an icebreaker question. As the group gets more comfortable, you can use this time to debrief the previous week's practice. - 10 min
 - **Scripture:** Dig into one passage from scripture using the 5 Questions (See Below) - 25 min
 - **Discussion** - 20 min
 - **Closing:** Decide on which practice(s) you'll commit to this week. Spend time praying for each other and those you sense God is sending you to - 10 min

5 Questions To Ask When Reading Your Bible - Worksheet

Whether you're a seminary professor or you've just recently picked up a Bible for the first time, these five questions can help you engage with Scripture. Try using it by yourself or with a group of people to read, understand and live out the Bible.

Question 1: What is going on in the passage?

- What's happening here?
- Who are the main characters?
- Very simply, *what is*?

Question 2: What do I like about the passage?

- What parts of this passage/story encourage me?
- What inspires, pleases or excites me based on what I've read?
- Why?

Question 3: What disturbs or startles me about the passage?

- What is it about this passage that reveals truth that may be hard to accept?
- What disturbs me or jolts, confronts or even offends me in my understanding of God, His Son, the world or my life?
- Why don't I like that?

Question 4: What does this say about the nature of God and/or the character of Jesus?

- What does this passage say about who God actually is?
- What does this say about the essence of his nature?
- What can I see about the character of Jesus (his patience, holiness, compassion, righteousness, etc)?

Question 5: What will I do with what I just learned in the next seven days?

- How will we respond to what we've just read?
- What will I do with what I just learned?
- How do I make sure that this wasn't just intellectual ascent? How do I put this into practice?