



COMMUNITY GROUPS

SANTA CRUZ BIBLE CHURCH

Going Further: Learning to Walk In the Way of Jesus

VISION: Passing the Baton

February 23, 2020

Passages

- Primary passage: 2 Kings 2:1-18
- 2 Timothy 2:1-2
- Titus 2:1-8
- Matthew 28:18-20

Questions

- Opener:
 - Think about your parents or guardians and the kind of legacy they left you. How would you describe that now?
 - How did the generation before you both model and teach you about what is most important in life?
- Share Experience:
 - What was the spiritual legacy (for good or bad) that was left to you by your parents or guardians? How about the churches or faith communities you have been a part of?
 - What has been your experience being disciplined? What has been your experience discipling someone else?
 - If you're currently parenting children at home, what kind of "coming alongside" do you need from an older person in this season of life? If your kids are grown and out of the house, what are ways you can come alongside younger parents?
 - Do you have a good handle on how God has gifted you spiritually? Why do you think that is? If not, would you like help finding your spiritual gifting?
 - What excites you about the thought of discipling someone else? What fears or concerns come up for you?
- Dig Into:
 - Paul in both his second letter to Timothy and in his letter to Titus places a priority on passing on the faith to the next generation. Why do you think this seems to be so important to him? What has this looked like in your own life? How about in our church?
 - What does it mean to "disciple" someone? What does this look like?
 - in Matthew 28, Jesus promises his presence with the disciples as they engage the mission of making disciples. Why is this promise important? How can we experience the presence of Jesus with us today?

Creative Ideas

- Watch the video “US 4x100 Relay Teams drop batons” (See additional resources below). What thoughts or emotions does this video stir in you as you watch it? In this scenario, the consequences of dropping the baton was failing to compete for an Olympic medal. What are the potential consequences if we fail to pass the baton to those in our lives? What are the potential consequences if the Church fails to pass the baton? What could be the possibilities if we succeed in passing the baton?
- **Exercise:** Skim through the story of Elijah and Elisha and 1&2 Kings. What did discipleship look like in their relationship? How did the baton get passed from one great prophet of God to the next? What would this kind of baton passing look like in our day and age?

Practices

- Commit to continuing to pray with your Go Love Cards both daily on your own and weekly in community.
- Pray daily asking God how He’s inviting you to invest in the next generation so that the baton of faith gets passed. After a week, write down what kind of invitation you’ve sensed. Bring this back to the group next week where everyone will share what they believe they’ve heard. Are there any common threads?

Additional Resources

- The questions at the end are fantastic! <https://timchester.wordpress.com/2016/03/21/following-up-the-sermon-in-small-groups/>
- Video: Beijing Olympics - US 4x100 Relay Teams drop batons - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vQCi3mayB3Q>

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?