



**Going Further: Learning to Walk In the Way of Jesus
I Called. You Answered.
April 5, 2020**

Passages

- Primary passage: Psalm 40

Questions

- Opener:
 - How are you doing? What do you need this week? (See Needs Inventory in Additional Resources below)
 - Tell us about a time when you needed to ask for help. Why? How did that work out for you?
- Share Experience:
 - What's a time in your past when life's circumstances brought you to a place of total dependence and surrender to God?
 - How have you experienced God inviting you to greater dependence and surrender to him during this time of pandemic? How have you responded?
 - How has God's past faithfulness strengthened your trust in him during this season?
 - How do you handle the waiting, before it seems like God has responded to your prayers? Why?
 - What telltale signs of God's activity have you seen in your life right now? How did you know it was Him?
- Dig Into:
 - David is the author of Psalm 40 and he was in a unique relationship to God called a covenant. How do covenants work and how did that relationship give David confidence that God would rescue him? How is our situation today similar to David? Is there any way in which it's different?
 - Do you think God only listens to us and acts to help us when we've been faithful? Does he also help those who are "unfaithful"? Why or why not?
 - What are moments you can remember from the life of David when God had been faithful to help him?

Creative Ideas

- Watch the music video for “Psalm 40 (A New Song)” by New Hope Oahu (See Additional Resources Below). How does hearing this psalm put to music stir new thoughts or emotions? What new perspective does it give you?

Practices

- Challenge yourself to memorize Psalm 40 this week. You can either memorize the Psalm itself or the song Psalm 40 (A New Song) by New Hope Oahu. Sometimes music helps us memorize more quickly or easily.
- Check in with people from your *Go Love Cards* and your neighbors (especially those who are elderly or prone to illness). Let them know you’re thinking of them/praying for them. See if there’s any tangible needs that you can safely meet for them.

Additional Resources

- The questions at the end are fantastic! <https://timchester.wordpress.com/2016/03/21/following-up-the-sermon-in-small-groups/>
- Needs Inventory - <https://www.cnvc.org/sites/default/files/2018-10/CNVC-needs-inventory.pdf>
- Song: Psalm 40 (A New Song) by New Hope Oahu - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oDXMZEgDhNo>

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?