



COMMUNITY GROUPS

SANTA CRUZ BIBLE CHURCH

Going Further: Learning to Walk In the Way of Jesus Throwing Shade October 11, 2020

Passages

- Primary passage: Matthew 20:1-28
- 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Questions

- Opener:
 - What's the most exhausted you've ever been? What was that like?
 - How are you doing this week? What do you need right now? (Continue to refer to the Needs Inventory, see Additional Resources below)
- Share Experience:
 - Have you ever had the experience of either throwing shade on someone and/or having someone throw shade on you? What was that like? Why do we do this?
 - How have you felt tempted to trust in political power? Why is this pull so strong for us?
 - What does it feel like to be powerless? Why don't we like this?
 - How has God met you in the midst of a moment/season of powerlessness? How has God's power been made perfect in your weakness?
 - Why do you think it is that we are constantly looking for ways to gain power over others?
 - In what ways might God be inviting you to lay down your own pursuit of power in this season?
- Dig Into:
 - According to the Matthew 20 passage, how does Jesus exercise his power?
 - How is the powerlessness of Jesus true power in reality?
 - In what ways does Jesus' death show us the nature of God's Kingdom?
 - For those who have experienced abuse, what does it look like to surrender their power in a way that doesn't open them up to further abuse?

Creative Ideas

- Listen to the song “Put Not Your Hope In The Nation (Psalm 146) by Wendell Kimbrough. How does this song stir your thoughts and emotions? What light does it shed on the topic for this week?

Practices

- This week make it a point to have a conversation with someone in your life who you know disagrees with you on an important topic. As a discipline for yourself, invite them to fully share their perspective without arguing back your own view. Simply ask questions to try to understand. Afterwards reflect on what that experience was like for you. What was helpful or enlightening? What was difficult for you?

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>
- Throwing Shade Definition from Urban Dictionary - <https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Throw%20shade>
- Andy Crouch “It’s Time to Talk About Power” - https://andy-crouch.com/articles/its_time_to_talk_about_power
- Henri Nouwen “Power Through Powerlessness” - <https://henrinouwen.org/meditation/power-through-powerlessness/>
- “Political Riptides Pull Us Apart” - <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2020/october-web-only/political-riptides-rip-us-apart.html>
- Song: [“Put Not Your Hope In The Nation \(Psalm 146\)” by Wendell Kimbrough](#)

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?