

STUDENT INVEST IN A FEW LEADER NOTES

Every time you gather with your group, you want to divide your time into three sections: looking back, looking together, and looking forward. Your group time together should last between 60 and 90 minutes each. Plan to balance your time between these three sections and don't spend all of your time on just teaching content, so leave plenty of time for all three areas.

LOOKING BACK

The goal of this section is to provide pastoral care and accountability

- Ask questions about the past week such as: "How did this week go?" "What stressed you?" "What went well?" "What's heavy on your heart?" "Where did you struggle the most?" (Pray for each other as you begin your meeting time.)
- Review last week's "Apply What You've Learned" page. How are you putting into practice what you are learning? What problems did you have? What success did you have?
- Review the memory verse of the week. "What did God show you through this verse?"
- Ask them to share from their journals how God has spoken to them this week.

LOOKING TOGETHER

The goal of this section is to review the new teaching and practice what you have learned.

We want each person to grow in competence and confidence as they put God's Word to practice.

- Spend time reviewing the key questions from each day and discussing answers.
- Half of the time should be spent on teaching and half of the time on practicing what you have learned together as a group.

LOOKING FORWARD

The goal of this section is to plan how they will practice what they have learned during the week and then commission them to do it.

- Have each person write down one thing they will put into practice this next week on the "Apply What You've Learned" page.
- Commissioning: Have someone pray for the group to go out to do what they have learned in the power of the Holy Spirit.

INITIAL GROUP MEETING

- **Looking Back:** Spend your time catching up with each other. Have everyone briefly share what has been going on in life since the last meeting. You, as the leader, should start off first.
- **Looking Together:** Hand out the books to everyone. Have someone read out loud the section *“How to use this Book”*. Remind them that there is a daily reading for them to do along with a Scripture memorization each week. Take a moment to look over the verses you will be memorizing during this study. You may want to refer your group to the page entitled *“Memorizing Scripture.”* Answer any questions they may have regarding Scripture memory. At this time, remind everyone that you will also be reviewing the memory verses from *“Walk With God”* and *“Reach Your World”* during this study. Explain that they will be reading through various epistles of the New Testament together, and remind them about the journaling with using the **L.I.S.T.E.N.** to God and **P.R.A.Y.** methods learned in *“Walk With God.”* Make sure everyone in your group has a Bible and explain that journal pages are provided each week in the study to record their Bible reading notes. Also read through the *“My Commitment”* page, and ask them to make a commitment to the group by checking the appropriate boxes on that page. Help your group select prayer partners from within the group and encourage them to exchange contact information. In addition, using the table of contents, briefly give them an overview of what you will be studying over the next seven weeks.
- **Looking Forward:** Clearly set your expectations for the group and confirm the details of when and where you will meet. If a member must miss for any reason, they will need to contact both you and their prayer partner. Inform them that they start this week by reading from the books of Galatians and Ephesians, and to journal using the **L.I.S.T.E.N.** to God and **P.R.A.Y.** methods. Talk with your group about assigning a Week for each of the group members to practice leading their own Grow Group (see *NOTE below). Ask if there are any questions. Close out in prayer together, commissioning them as they head into this first week. I love asking the group to get on their knees for prayer, if possible, as I pray over them. Encourage them by telling them how you will be praying for them every day and how excited you are to see what God will teach them during your time together.

***PLEASE NOTE:** Depending on the size of your Grow Group, we would recommend scheduling & assigning at least one of the Weeks for each of the group members to facilitate the Group Time, so they can experience the time management and get a feel for leading a Grow Group. Also, you can give them feedback & answer questions they may have. However, we recommend that you do not assign Week One or Week Seven, as you should lead these two weeks. For example, if you are leading three members in this Grow Group, consider assigning Weeks Four, Five & Six to each of the Grow Group members. Be sure to remind them of their assigned Weeks in advance, and show them where to find the Leader Notes.

GROUP LEADER SUGGESTIONS FOR WEEK ONE

- **Looking Back:** As you gather together begin by reviewing the week. Ask questions like “How did it go this week?” “What problems are you facing?” “Did you run into problems with your daily reading?” After everyone has shared, review the memory verse for the week. Remind the group that they should be trying to say the verse word for word as it appears in the Bible, not just as a paraphrase. Ask about how their reading has been in the book of Acts this week. What did God say to them personally? How is their journaling going?
- **Looking Together:** Week One is all about defining a disciple. Review the questions at the end of each day’s reading. On Day One remind them that Jesus gave us a clear command to make disciples. On Day Two ask how their definition of a disciple has changed as a result of this study. On Day Four discuss the difference between character and competencies. On Day Five, discuss why more believers are not engaged in the work of Jesus to make disciples. On Day Six, discuss what it means to follow Jesus today. What choices will they have to make to follow him fully?
- **Looking Forward:** Encourage each group member to write down one thing they will put into practice this next week on the “**Apply What You’ve Learned**” page. For example, they might commit to living as a fully mature 3D disciple of Jesus Christ. Also, remind them that as they read the books of Ephesians & Philippians this week, to journal using the **L.I.S.T.E.N.** to God and **P.R.A.Y.** methods. In this way we walk with God, moving what we learn from our head to our heart. . If you’ve assigned Week Two to a group member to lead, remind them. Close in prayer asking that God will give them a desire to make disciples who make disciples for a lifetime. Try to make a point to meet personally with one of them each week for prayer and encouragement.

GROUP LEADER SUGGESTIONS FOR WEEK TWO

- **Looking Back:** Take time to review the week and discover the “*highs and lows*” of the week. Pray together. Review last week’s “**Apply What You’ve Learned**” page. What challenges did they face? Review the memory verses assigned and journal entries from the past week.
- **Looking Together:** Week Two is all about the process Jesus used to make disciples. Review the questions at the end of each day’s reading. Day One is a brief overview of the process of Jesus to make disciples. Ask the group “*What stands out to you the most about this process?*” On Day Two remind the group that making disciples is a work of the Holy Spirit. We are partnering with the Spirit to mature believers into fully formed reproducing disciple makers for Jesus. On Day Three discuss how Jesus engaged explorers. On Day Six reinforce how Jesus cast a vision of personal multiplication to his disciples.
- **Looking Forward:** : Encourage each group member to write down one thing they will put into practice this next week on the “**Apply What You’ve Learned**” page. For example, they might commit to walk as Jesus walked and to make disciples the way Jesus made disciples. Also, remind them that as they read from the books of Philippians, Colossians & 1 Thessalonians this week, to journal using the **L.I.S.T.E.N.** to God and **P.R.A.Y.** methods. In this way we walk with God, moving what we learn from our head to our heart. Contact each group member this week. If you’ve assigned Week Three to a group member to lead, remind them. Have someone pray that God will give them each a desire to make disciples who make disciples for a lifetime. Try to make a point to meet personally with one of them each week for prayer and encouragement.

GROUP LEADER SUGGESTIONS FOR WEEK THREE

- **Looking Back:** Take time to review the week and discover the “*highs and lows*” of the week. Pray together. Review last week’s “**Apply What You’ve Learned**” page. What challenges did they face? Review the memory verses assigned and journal entries from the past week.
- **Looking Together:** Week Three is about the beginning steps to investing in people. Review the questions at the end of each day’s reading. Day One lays out the steps you should take to determine who you should disciple. Review these steps together. On Day Two brainstorm together how you can cast a compelling vision of being a disciple to someone who needs investment. On Day Three underscore the value of discipling in groups. Day Four gives a step-by-step plan for the first time you meet with a “would be” disciple. Take time to discuss this and even role-play what that conversation might sound like. Day Five is about making time to make disciples. Discuss how each member of your group will have to carve out time to invest in others.
- **Looking Forward:** : Encourage each group member to write down one thing they will put into practice this next week on the “**Apply What You’ve Learned**” page. For example, this is a good time to commit to investing in someone to disciple. Also, remind them that as they read from the books of 1 & 2 Thessalonians this week, to journal using the **L.I.S.T.E.N.** to God and **P.R.A.Y.** methods. In this way we walk with God, moving what we learn from our head to our heart. Contact each group member this week. . If you’ve assigned Week Four to a group member to lead, remind them. Have someone pray that God will show each of them others, who may be interested in being in a Grow Group. Try to make a point to meet personally with one of them each week for prayer and encouragement.

GROUP LEADER SUGGESTIONS FOR WEEK FOUR

- **Looking Back:** Take time to review the week and discover the “*highs and lows*” of the week. Pray together. Review last week’s “**Apply What You’ve Learned**” page. What challenges did they face? Review the memory verses assigned and journal entries from the past week.
- **Looking Together:** Week Four is about how to build the basic competencies of walking with God into another person. Review the questions at the end of each day’s reading. On Day One stress that spiritual growth requires training that results in spiritual maturity. On Day Two ask the group, “What do you think are the core competencies a believer should master to be able to walk with God and make disciples?” Engage in the group in discussion about why gathering as a group, personal commitment, godly examples and prayer are important to discipling others.
- **Looking Forward:** Encourage each group member to write down one thing they will put into practice this next week on the “**Apply What You’ve Learned**” page. Also, remind them that as they read from the books of 1 & 2 Timothy this week, to journal using the **L.I.S.T.E.N.** to God and **P.R.A.Y.** methods. In this way we walk with God, moving what we learn from our head to our heart. Contact each group member this week. . If you’ve assigned Week Five to a group member to lead, remind them. Have someone pray for the group this week. Try to make a point to meet personally with one of them each week for prayer and encouragement.

GROUP LEADER SUGGESTIONS FOR WEEK FIVE

- **Looking Back:** Take time to review the week and discover the “highs and lows” of the week. Review the “I will” statement they made, ask them how it went this week. What challenges did they face? Review the memory verses and journal entries from the past week.
- **Looking Together:** Week Five is about how to build the basic Christ like character in others. Review the questions at the end of each day’s reading. Look at Day One and discuss why crisis and community help shape our character. On Day Two point out the accountability questions in the Appendix. What stands out about those questions? Day Three reveals the importance of a safe environment where people can be genuine and authentic. Why is that difficult to find in our culture today? Day Six deals with how to resolve conflict within your Grow Group. Ask them “what stands out to you most about the importance of resolving conflict?”
- **Looking Forward:** Encourage each group member to write down one thing they will put into practice this next week on the “**Apply What You’ve Learned**” page. For example, they might commit to resolving a conflict in their life or cultivating a healthy environment that shapes godly character in their group of close friends. Also, remind them that as they read from the books of 2 Timothy, Titus & Philemon this week, to journal using the **L.I.S.T.E.N.** to God and **P.R.A.Y.** methods. In this way we walk with God, moving what we learn from our head to our heart. Contact each group member this week. . If you’ve assigned Week Six to a group member to lead, remind them. Have someone pray for the group this week. Try to make a point to meet personally with one of them each week for prayer and encouragement.

GROUP LEADER SUGGESTIONS FOR WEEK SIX

- **Looking Back:** Take time to review the week and discover the “highs and lows” of the week. Review the “I will” statement they made, ask them how it went this week. What challenges did they face? Ask how their discipleship groups are going. Review the memory verses and journal entries from the past week.
- **Looking Together:** Week Six is about the cost of making disciples. Review the questions at the end of each day’s reading. Look at Day One and discuss the “paradigm shift” that is required for you to invest in others. On Day Three drive home the point that investing in others can be inconvenient at times. Day Five deals with disappointment. Share with the group of a time when you felt disappointed in investing in others. How did you handle that situation? On Day Six, they read “The Fellowship of the Unashamed.” You might have the group read that passage, each person reading one sentence aloud. This is a powerful picture of a disciple-maker who has counted the cost.
- **Looking Forward:** Encourage each group member to write down one thing they will put into practice this next week on the “**Apply What You’ve Learned**” page. For example, they might commit to counting the cost of making disciples for the long haul. Also, remind them that as they read from the books of 1 John, 2 John & 3 John this week, to journal using the **L.I.S.T.E.N.** to God and **P.R.A.Y.** methods. In this way we walk with God, moving what we learn from our head to our heart. Contact each group member this week. Have someone pray for the group this week. Try to make a point to meet personally with one of them each week for prayer and encouragement.

GROUP LEADER SUGGESTIONS FOR WEEK SEVEN

- **Looking Back:** Take time to review the week and discover the “highs and lows” of the week. Review the “I will” statement they made, ask them how it went this week. What challenges did they face? Ask how their discipleship groups are going. Review the memory verses and journal entries from the past week.
- **Looking Together:** Week Seven is about making disciples for a lifetime. Review the questions at the end of each day’s reading. Look at Day One and discuss someone you know that has made disciples for a lifetime. How has their example impacted your life? Day Three talks about group multiplication. Discuss how each person in your group can be a part of multiplication, especially in launching new Grow Groups. Day Five is about “doing the work” of ministry, which is the work of making disciples. Engage your group in discussing why this is Jesus’ top priority. Day Six talks about how you will spend your life – as an investor or consumer. Challenge the group to invest their lives for the sake of the gospel and make disciples who will make disciples!
- **Looking Forward:** This is the last session of your group. It is very important that you take time to review what has meant the most to each person in the group. Have they learned how to invest in others in a deeper way? If so, how? It is also important to remind them that this is not the last step but actually the beginning of a lifetime of making disciples! Encourage every group member to participate in starting a new Grow Group and begin investing their lives. Make yourself available to help them and assure them that you are there to encourage them along the way. Also challenge them to continue to read God’s Word daily and to journal using the **L.I.S.T.E.N.** to God and **P.R.A.Y.** methods for the rest of their life! Commission them before you leave to make disciples and produce disciple makers till Jesus comes back!