



Small Group Study 2026

A disciple... **follows** Jesus, is **changed** by Jesus, and is **committed** to the mission of Jesus. (Matthew 4:19)

GROUPS VISION: Groups @ RCC seek to be a safe relational environment, where we all strive to become like Jesus together.

SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES

THIS IS A SAFE GROUP

Confidentiality is key—at is said in the group stays in the group. Be aware how you are affecting the environment with your words, actions, and non-verbal communication. This needs to be a place where people feel comfortable opening up and sharing.

NO CROSSTALK

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations, checking phones, responding to texts or emails, etc.

LISTEN

Let's value one another by listening to what is being shared. Allow a pause after someone shares to allow them to finish and others to consider what was said. Eye contact and body posture play key roles in creating a positive or negative group environment.

NO RESCUING OR FIXING

We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Avoid the tendency to rescue when someone is struggling to get the words out or shares a struggle or conviction.

USE "I" STATEMENTS

It's easy to talk about the issues of other or respond with "we," "us," or "the church," but for us to grow as disciples and build relationships, we want to use "I" statements.

DON'T OVER-TALK

We want to create time for all members of the group to participate in the discussion. Be careful not to always be the first responder or regularly give long responses.

FIGHT FOR RELATIONSHIP

It's not *if* conflict or hurt feelings will happen, but *when*. We commit to fight for relationship with each other. Go to the person and share your struggle or seek wise advice if you are not sure how to handle the conflict.

BASIC BIBLE STUDY METHOD

1. Pray
2. Read the passage 2-3 times (use different translations).
3. Write out simple outline of the passage.

SENT: Week 1 – The Beginning of the Movement

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: What's your guilty pleasure?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context for the story [Provide context by sharing what comes before the story]

Following the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, the disciples were in a place of anticipation. Although they had questions about the future, Jesus commanded them to wait. He promised them the Holy Spirit and that by His presence, the disciples would be witnesses to the risen Savior in all of life. Luke, who also penned the gospel by his name, records what happened as Jesus departed and left His ministry in the hands of His disciples. What follows, then, is the beginning of an extraordinary movement by ordinary people.

Tell the story: Acts 1:1-11 [Have someone tell the story]

Rebuild the story [Group members tell the story together based on what they remember]

Read the story out loud [Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted]

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage?
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. What is God leading you to do?

Other Questions specific to this passage:

1. Have you ever desired a "convincing proof" when following God? What was it?
2. What is God's plan for the advancement of His gospel?

Assign next week's passage – Acts 1:12-26 [Ask someone to tell the story next week]

Close in Prayer

SENT: Week 2 – The Foundation of a Movement

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: What's the worst job you've ever had?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context for the story [Provide context by sharing what comes before the story]

Following His death, burial, and resurrection, Jesus remained with His disciples for forty days. These forty days were marked by convincing proofs that He was alive. His followers were convinced that Jesus had conquered death and pondered their next move. However, as Jesus ascended to heaven and promised the Holy Spirit, He commanded His disciples to stay in Jerusalem. It was here that they considered a new addition.

Tell the story: Acts 1:12-26 [Have someone tell the story]

Rebuild the story [Group members tell the story together based on what they remember]

Read the story out loud [Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted]

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage?
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. What is God leading you to do?

Other Questions specific to this passage:

1. Judas received 30 pieces of silver for betraying Jesus, why do you think Luke was so graphic in describing Judas' death and decomposition.
2. Because the devil "watches our game film," what specific tactics does he use in attacking you?

Assign next week's passage – Acts 2:1-13 [Ask someone to tell the story next week]

Close in Prayer

SENT: Week 3 – The Power of the Spirit

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: When you die, what do you want to be remembered for?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context for the story [Provide context by sharing what comes before the story]

After the disciples saw Jesus ascend into heaven they went back to the upper room where they had met many times. They waited as He told them what to do. They prayed. They searched the Scriptures. They cast lot to see which of the disciples should take the place of Judas. After the lots fell to Matthias the disciples waited in Jerusalem until the promise from the Father came to pass.

Tell the story: Acts 2:1-13 [Have someone tell the story]

Rebuild the story [Group members tell the story together based on what they remember]

Read the story out loud [Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted]

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage?
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. What is God leading you to do?

Other Questions specific to this passage:

1. What will you answer when people ask, "What does this mean?" when they see the Spirit working in you?
2. How do you respond when you see the Lord obviously at work in those around you?

Assign next week's passage – Acts 2:14-36 [Ask someone to tell the story next week]

Close in Prayer

SENT: Week 4 – Peter’s Sermon

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: What’s your best scar story?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context for the story [Provide context by sharing what comes before the story]

As promised, the Holy Spirit is poured out on the disciples of Jesus to begin His work of renewal in Jerusalem and make it possible for His salvation to reach “to the ends of the earth.” As the result of this outpouring, the disciples spoke in various languages. For those from across the globe, they were amazed to hear the disciples speaking in “their own languages.” Then Peter takes to the stage to declare God’s message of the Messiah.

Tell the story: Acts 2:14-36 [Have someone tell the story]

Rebuild the story [Group members tell the story together based on what they remember]

Read the story out loud [Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted]

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage?
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. What is God leading you to do?

Other Questions specific to this passage:

1. Peter did not include his personal story of coming to faith. What are the dangers of relying too heavily on our testimony rather than conveying truths about Jesus?
2. Is it hard for you to have a “gospel centered” conversation with an unbeliever? Why?

Assign next week’s passage – Acts 2:37-47 [Ask someone to tell the story next week]

Close in Prayer

SENT: Week 5 – The Birth of the Church

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: Would you rather experience the beginning of planet earth or the end of planet earth?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context for the story [Provide context by sharing what comes before the story]

In this passage, we see a harvest of those who responded to the Gospel delivered by Peter. They were immediately baptized and added to the church. Fast forwarding from this scene, the early church not only devoted themselves to the apostles teaching, but they also devoted themselves to one another. The church began to grow in the wisdom and knowledge of Christ so much that it shaped how they viewed one another. As a result of their devotion, the Lord continued to add to the church those who are being saved.

Tell the story: Acts 2:37-47 [Have someone tell the story]

Rebuild the story [Group members tell the story together based on what they remember]

Read the story out loud [Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted]

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage?
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. What is God leading you to do?

Other Questions specific to this passage:

1. Which of the things the disciples did after Pentecost (verses 42-46) is your Grow Group doing? What changes need to be made?
2. When was the last time you were “pierced to the heart” by God’s Word? What did you do in response to it?

Assign next week’s passage – Acts 3:1-11 [Ask someone to tell the story next week]

Close in Prayer

SENT: Week 6 – The Miracle of the Movement

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: If you could only keep three things from your home, what would you pick and why?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context for the story [Provide context by sharing what comes before the story]

Shortly after the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, many were added to the number of disciples. Now, the followers of Jesus found themselves meeting in community and sharing life together. Out of their newfound togetherness, they began to proclaim Christ publicly, especially in the temple, where there was gathered a large number of Jews. During these trips to the temple, they encountered many people who God had placed in their path.

Tell the story: Acts 3:1-11 [Have someone tell the story]

Rebuild the story [Group members tell the story together based on what they remember]

Read the story out loud [Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted]

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. What is God leading you to do?

Other Questions specific to this passage:

1. What is the result of ordinary disciples filled with the Holy Spirit?
2. We can get so focused on our busy lives and tasks that we no longer see people. Is there someone that's become invisible to you? Who do you need to engage in a gospel conversation?

Assign next week's passage – Acts 3:12 – Acts 4:22 [Ask someone to tell the story next week]

Close in Prayer

SENT: Week 7 – The Message of the Movement

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: What was the last foreign country you visited?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context for the story [Provide context by sharing what comes before the story]

As the church grew in number and notoriety, the followers of Jesus were given opportunities to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ publicly. Peter, who once denied his affiliation with Jesus, was consistently placed in front of an audience of eager listeners. He had boldly professed salvation through Jesus at Pentecost and now, would be given another opportunity after the healing of a crippled man at the temple.

Tell the story: Acts 3:12 – Acts 4:22 [Have someone tell the story]

Rebuild the story [Group members tell the story together based on what they remember]

Read the story out loud [Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted]

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage?
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. What is God leading you to do?

Other Questions specific to this passage:

1. What should you pray when you are threatened because of your faith?
2. When was the last time you gave God credit for your good deeds (Acts 4:8-10)?
3. How can we have more courage and boldness in being used by God?

Assign next week's passage – Acts 4:23-33 [Ask someone to tell the story next week]

Close in Prayer

SENT: Week 8 – The Heart of the Movement

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: What's one of your pet peeves?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context for the story [Provide context by sharing what comes before the story]

The authorities have consistently sought to squash the advancement of the early church. However, because of the fear of public retaliation, they have only threatened the apostles. With no political power, the early followers of Jesus have continued to proclaim salvation through Jesus out of a boldness that could only come from God. In the face of persecution, the unified church has sought God through prayer and relied on His Spirit for courage.

Tell the story: Acts 4:23-33 [Have someone tell the story]

Rebuild the story [Group members tell the story together based on what they remember]

Read the story out loud [Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted]

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage?
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. What is God leading you to do?

Other Questions specific to this passage:

1. When you face persecution for your faith, what is usually your first response?
2. When was the last time that God gave you the boldness to share your faith in Jesus?
3. Who are you praying will come to faith in Jesus Christ?

Assign next week's passage – Acts 4:34 – Acts 5:13 [Ask someone to tell the story next week]

Close in Prayer

SENT: Week 9 – Missing the Movement

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: What were the three biggest turning points in your life?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context for the story [Provide context by sharing what comes before the story]

One consistent mark of the early church was their generosity. As the church formed, everyone gave as anyone had need. Peter told a beggar “silver and gold I do not have” because the church had dispersed their resources to the poor. Their money was loosely held because they wanted to be, first and foremost, generous with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Tell the story: Acts 4:34 – Acts 5:13 [Have someone tell the story]

Rebuild the story [Group members tell the story together based on what they remember]

Read the story out loud [Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted]

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage?
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. What is God leading you to do?

Other Questions specific to this passage:

1. What is the difference between sharing what you have and giving out of excess?
3. Barnabas meant the “son of encouragement.” In the future, what phrase would you love for people to use when describing you?

Assign next week's story – Acts 6:8-15 & Acts 7:51-60 [Ask someone to tell the story next week]

Close in Prayer

SENT: Week 10 - Stephen

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: Who's someone you really admire?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context for the story [Provide context by sharing what comes before the story]

The church grew by 3,000 and then, 5,000. This quick and massive expansion created tension for both those within the church and those who were strongly opposed to its existence. Now, as the church faced opposition, the early followers of Jesus would have to navigate a life of internal conflict and external persecution.

Tell the story: Acts 6:8-15 & Acts 7:51-60 [Have someone tell the story]

Rebuild the story [Group members tell the story together based on what they remember]

Read the story out loud [Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted]

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage?
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. What is God leading you to do?

Other Questions specific to this passage:

1. Stephen was accused of speaking against "tradition." How have you limited God to working only within your limited framework, based upon your previous church experience?
2. Describe a time when you suffered because you chose to follow Christ.

Assign next week's passage – Acts 8:4-24 [Ask someone to tell the story next week]

Close in Prayer

SENT: Week 11 – Manipulating God

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: Would you rather have a rewind or pause button on your life?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context for the story [Provide context by sharing what comes before the story]

The book of Acts has introduced us to the beginning of the greatest movement to have ever existed. This movement faced discouraging odds, whether that be the result of small numbers, internal struggle, external persecution, or the uniqueness of its message. Yet, despite these obstacles, the church rapidly grew and multiplied in number, which only brought about additional opposition.

Tell the story: Acts 8:4-24 [Have someone tell the story]

Rebuild the story [Group members tell the story together based on what they remember]

Read the story out loud [Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted]

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage?
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. What is God leading you to do?

Other Questions specific to this passage:

1. What do you rejoice over?
2. What makes you angry?

Assign next week's passage – Acts 8:25-40 [Ask someone to tell the story next week]

Close in Prayer

SENT: Week 12 – Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: If you could only have five apps on your phone, what would they be?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context for the story [Provide context by sharing what comes before the story]

The early church is growing as disciples travel from city to city, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with others. This story will look at the disciple-making journey that Phillip took as he followed the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Tell the story: Acts 8:25-40 [Have someone tell the story]

Rebuild the story [Group members tell the story together based on what they remember]

Read the story out loud [Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted]

Discuss these questions:

When discipling others, it's always important to remember that there is My Part, Their Part, and God's Part. Let's look at this story in light of those three responsibilities.

1. What was Philip's Part in this story?
2. What was the Eunuch's Part in this story?
3. What was God's Part in this story?
4. What is God saying specifically to you (through this passage) as a disciple-maker?
5. What frustrations have you experienced in disciple-making when you try to do more than "Your Part"?

Assign next week's passage – Acts 9:1-19 [Ask someone to tell the story next week]

Close in Prayer

SENT: Week 13 – The Conversion of Saul

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: Who are three people you want on your team if there was a zombie apocalypse?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context for the story [Provide context by sharing what comes before the story]

Throughout the early chapters of Acts, Luke depicts the spread of the early church. As the gospel spread to new people and communities, persecution arose. The chief of all persecutors of the church was a man named Saul, who was present at the death of Stephen (7:58; 8:1). Soon, however, God had plans to use Saul for the further expansion of the church.

Tell the story: Acts 9:1-19 [Have someone tell the story]

Rebuild the story [Group members tell the story together based on what they remember]

Read the story out loud [Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted]

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage?
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. What is God leading you to do?

Other Questions specific to this passage:

1. When did you last question something that the Lord told you to do?
2. Which person in your life would you consider the “least likely to come to faith in Jesus Christ?” Is God leading you to do something specific for that person?

Assign next week's passage – Acts 9:19-30 [Ask someone to tell the story next week]

Close in Prayer

SENT: Week 14 – Messy Christianity

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: What is your worst habit?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context for the story [Provide context by sharing what comes before the story]

On the road to Damascus, Saul's life was transformed. God was going to use Saul as an instrument for His glory. After Saul regained his sight, he immediately began sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with others. Saul's message, however, was not well received by the Jews who soon plotted against him. God provided friends to encourage Saul and meet his needs during this troubling time.

Tell the story: Acts 9:19-30 [Have someone tell the story]

Rebuild the story [Group members tell the story together based on what they remember]

Read the story out loud [Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted]

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage?
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. What is God leading you to do?

Other Questions specific to this passage:

1. Before you came to Christ, was there a person that you remember being radically transformed by Him? Who was it?
2. Is God leading you to come alongside another believer this week and encourage them? Who is it?

Assign next week's passage – Acts 10:34-48 [Ask someone to tell the story next week]

Close in Prayer

SENT: Week 15 – A Colorblind Gospel

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: What's something you are self-conscious about?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context for the story [Provide context by sharing what comes before the story]

Cornelius was a Roman officer who was a devout and God-fearing man. One day, a holy angel appeared to Cornelius and instructed him to summon Peter to his house in order to hear his message. When Peter arrived in Caesarea, Cornelius was waiting for him along with his relatives and close friends. As Peter entered his home, Cornelius shared what the angel had spoken to him. Peter begins to share the good news of Jesus Christ with those who have assembled.

Tell the story: Acts 10:34-48 [Have someone tell the story]

Rebuild the story [Group members tell the story together based on what they remember]

Read the story out loud [Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted]

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage?
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. What is God leading you to do?

Other Questions specific to this passage:

1. With whom is God leading you to have a gospel-centered conversation?
2. Where is God leading you to take the gospel this year?

Assign next week's passage – Acts 11:19-30 [Ask someone to tell the story next week]

Close in Prayer

SENT: Week 16 - Antioch

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: What book have you read recently that you would recommend and why?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context for the story [Provide context by sharing what comes before the story]

The final scene of the Cornelius narrative takes place in Jerusalem, where some of Peter's fellow Jewish Christians questioned his acceptance of the Gentiles. Peter defended his action by retelling the events of the Gentile conversions with an emphasis on God's leading. With the establishing of a church at Antioch and their outreach to Gentiles, the focus in Acts shifts to that congregation.

Tell the story: Acts 11:19-30 [Have someone tell the story]

Rebuild the story [Group members tell the story together based on what they remember]

Read the story out loud [Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted]

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage?
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. What is God leading you to do?

Other Questions specific to this passage:

1. With whom is God leading you to come alongside and encourage?
2. What is your "comfort zone" that the Lord wants you to leave?

Assign next week's passage – Acts 12:1-19 [Ask someone to tell the story next week]

Close in Prayer

SENT: Week 17 – Prayer That Opens Prison Doors

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: Would you rather not have arms or legs, and why?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context for the story [Provide context by sharing what comes before the story]

As the gospel spreads, an angry King Herod persecutes the church by successfully killing James, the brother of John. Herod also has Peter arrested and imprisoned, intending to bring him before the people after the Passover. While Peter was kept in prison, other disciples gathered together and prayed fervently for his release.

Tell the story: Acts 12:1-19 [Have someone tell the story]

Rebuild the story [Group members tell the story together based on what they remember]

Read the story out loud [Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted]

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage?
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. What is God leading you to do?

Other Questions specific to this passage:

1. When was the last time you sought God with intense desperation?
2. What prevents you from praying as effectively as you should?

Assign next week's passage – Acts 13:26-39 [Ask someone to tell the story next week]

Close in Prayer

SENT: Week 18 – But God Raised Him

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: If you could meet any historical figure, who would you choose and why?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context for the story [Provide context by sharing what comes before the story]

Paul's first missionary journey started with the call of the Holy Spirit, who instructed the prophets and teachers at the church in Antioch of Syria, to set apart Barnabas and Paul for the work He had called them to do. Upon their arrival in Pisidian Antioch, Paul was invited to speak in the synagogue. Paul preached Jesus by first reviewing the history of Israel, from the Exodus to the time of David. He then proclaimed forgiveness of sin through Jesus.

Tell the story: Acts 13:26-39 [Have someone tell the story]

Rebuild the story [Group members tell the story together based on what they remember]

Read the story out loud [Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted]

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage?
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. What is God leading you to do?

Other Questions specific to this passage:

1. Before you came to know Jesus, did you try to earn salvation through good works?
What specific actions did you perform?
2. With whom is God leading you to have a gospel-centered conversation?

Assign next week's passage – Acts 15:1-32 [Ask someone to tell the story next week]

Close in Prayer

SENT: Week 19 – How To Kill A Movement

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: What's your favorite quote?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context for the story [Provide context by sharing what comes before the story]

The ministry of Paul & Barnabas in Lystra centered on the healing of a lame man, and the people's attempt to worship them. Later the crowds, stirred up by the Jews, would stone Paul and drag him out of the city. Paul, un-wavered by this, continued the journey eventually returning to Antioch and reporting all that the Lord had done through them.

Tell the story: Acts 15:1-32 (or smaller passage of Acts 15:1-12) [Have someone tell the story]

Rebuild the story [Group members tell the story together based on what they remember]

Read the story out loud [Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted]

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage?
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. What is God leading you to do?

Other Questions specific to this passage:

1. Before we met Jesus, many of us struggled with keeping up with the appearance of "having it all together." What do you remember about those times in your life?
2. According to verse 10, what expectations or "yokes" did you place on others?

Assign next week's passage – Acts 16:1-19 [Ask someone to tell the story next week]

Close in Prayer

SENT: Week 20 – How The Gospel Changes Lives

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: What have you bought that you love so much you would happily buy it again?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context for the story [Provide context by sharing what comes before the story]

After teaching in Antioch, Paul wanted to meet believers in the cities they had previously visited. Barnabas was willing but wanted to take John Mark. Paul insisted they should not take him because he left them on their first trip. Unable to reconcile, Barnabas took John Mark and sailed to Cyprus, while Paul took Silas to Syria and Cilicia.

Tell the story: Acts 16:1-19 [Have someone tell the story]

Rebuild the story [Group members tell the story together based on what they remember]

Read the story out loud [Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted]

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage?
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. What is God leading you to do?

Other Questions specific to this passage:

1. Timothy was blessed to have a family of faithful believers in God (II Timothy 1:5). Which family members in your life had the most profound spiritual impact on you?
2. How has your relationship with Jesus impacted your view and value of money?

Assign next week's passage – Acts 17:16-34 [Ask someone to tell the story next week]

Close in Prayer

SENT: Week 21 – Sermon On Mars Hill

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: What's is a mistake people often make about you?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context for the story [Provide context by sharing what comes before the story]

Paul, Silas, and Timothy continued on the second missionary journey. In Thessalonica, Paul met in the synagogue for three weeks sharing the gospel. Some Jews and Greeks believed, while some Jews gathered a mob to oppose Paul. The believers sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. Paul later traveled to Athens where he was invited to speak at Mars Hill.

Tell the story: Acts 17:16-34 [Have someone tell the story]

Rebuild the story [Group members tell the story together based on what they remember]

Read the story out loud [Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted]

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage?
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. What is God leading you to do?

Other Questions specific to this passage:

1. Acts 17:17 says that Paul was engaging people in gospel conversations every day in the marketplace. Who is God calling you to engage in a gospel conversation?
2. When thinking about the people you personally disciple, what “idol” do they worship?

Assign next week's passage – Acts 18:1-11 [Ask someone to tell the story next week]

Close in Prayer

SENT: Week 22 – Paul at Corinth

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: Who in your life inspires you to be better?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context for the story [Provide context by sharing what comes before the story]

Paul's sermon at Mars Hill appealed to the Greek philosophers by interacting with their thoughts in respectful ways. Its main subject was the sin of idolatry that cleared the way for a full statement of the gospel. Some, mocked Paul as he preached, others wanted to hear more about it later. Some actually believed and joined him.

Tell the story: Acts 18:1-11 [Have someone tell the story]

Rebuild the story [Group members tell the story together based on what they remember]

Read the story out loud [Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted]

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage?
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. What is God leading you to do?

Other Questions specific to this passage:

1. God connected Paul with Aquila and Priscilla through their occupation as tentmakers. Which co-workers has God placed in your life to encourage you as a disciple of Jesus?
2. What can you intentionally do to help build a relationship with a lost friend?

Assign next week's passage – Acts 19:11-41 [Ask someone to tell the story next week]

Close in Prayer

SENT: Week 23 – The Gospel and Idolatry

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: Would you rather explore space or the ocean?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context for the story [Provide context by sharing what comes before the story]

At Ephesus, Paul led some disciples of John the Baptist to faith in Jesus Christ. Paul later worked many miracles at Ephesus, but he encountered others who pursued a false way of working “miracles,” including some would-be Jewish exorcists and people who had a background of faith in magical spells.

Tell the story: Acts 19:11-41 [Have someone tell the story]

Rebuild the story [Group members tell the story together based on what they remember]

Read the story out loud [Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted]

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage?
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. What is God leading you to do?

Other Questions specific to this passage:

1. If someone you are discipling stumbles in their walk with Christ, what would you say to disciple them through their shame and humiliation?
2. Share briefly about an experience where you saw God move in a miraculous way.

Assign next week's passage – Acts 20:17-38 [Ask someone to tell the story next week]

Close in Prayer

SENT: Week 24 – Paul’s Tombstone

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: If you could change one thing about the way you were raised, what would you change?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context for the story [Provide context by sharing what comes before the story]

Paul made a final visit to the churches of Macedonia and Achaia, spending the winter in Corinth. The journey to Jerusalem continued, with an incident at Troas in which Paul restored the life of a youth. This is followed by a detailed itinerary of Paul’s next voyage.

Tell the story: Acts 20:17-38 [Have someone tell the story]

Rebuild the story [Group members tell the story together based on what they remember]

Read the story out loud [Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted]

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage?
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. What is God leading you to do?

Other Questions specific to this passage:

1. This passage details Paul’s final goodbye to many that he had discipled. Describe the emotions you felt when someone, who had invested in you, was no longer there for you.
2. What words of wisdom or encouragement would you want to leave for those you are discipling if God called you somewhere else?

Assign next week’s passage – Acts 22:1-22 [Ask someone to tell the story next week]

Close in Prayer

SENT: Week 25 – The Gospel and Courage

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: Have you been told you look like someone famous, who was it?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context for the story [Provide context by sharing what comes before the story]

Paul arrived at the temple in Jerusalem and was attacked by a Jewish mob incited by the false charge that Paul had violated the temple. Roman soldiers then separated Paul from the mob, took him into custody, and bound him in chains. After being taken to the barracks, Paul was granted permission to speak to the Jewish crowd.

Tell the story: Acts 22:1-22 [Have someone tell the story]

Rebuild the story [Group members tell the story together based on what they remember]

Read the story out loud [Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted]

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage?
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. In light of what you've learned today, what do you need to do to obey God?

Other Questions specific to this passage:

1. Paul's conversion to faith in Jesus Christ is one of the most dramatic ever recorded. Who have you seen transformed by Jesus that you never imagined would be?
2. Who are you praying will come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior?

Next week's passage – Acts 23:11, 24:10-26 [Ask someone to tell the story next week]

Close in Prayer

SENT: Week 26 – Paul on Trial

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: What's something you will NEVER do again?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context for the story [Provide context by sharing what comes before the story]

The chief priest, elders and Tertullus, an orator, came from Jerusalem to Caesarea to make accusations and provide evidence against Paul. Tertullus spoke, reviewing the previous events at the temple. He accused Paul of disturbing the peace, stirring up riots against Jews all over the world, and serving as the ringleader of a rebellious sect called Nazarenes.

Tell the story: Acts 23:11; 24:10-26 [Have someone tell the story]

Rebuild the story [Group members tell the story together based on what they remember]

Read the story out loud [Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted]

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage?
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. In light of what you've learned today, what do you need to do to obey God?

Other Questions specific to this passage:

1. How are we to remain committed to Christ in a world that pushes convenience on us?
2. How does our future resurrection encourage us to live with righteousness and self-control?

Assign Next week's passage – Acts 26:2-23 [Ask someone to tell the story next week]

Close in Prayer

SENT: Week 27 – In His Own Words

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: What are some of your personal rules that you refuse to break?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context for the story [Provide context by sharing what comes before the story]

Felix, the procurator of Judea, procrastinated Paul's death and passed his fate to his successor, Festus. Festus sees no reason to sentence Paul to death. So, upon King Agrippa's request, Festus brings in Paul to plead his own case. Amid considerable pomp, Paul testified before the king, giving the most detailed exposition of the gospel.

Tell the story: Acts 26:1-18 [Have someone tell the story]

Rebuild the story [Group members tell the story together based on what they remember]

Read the story out loud [Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted]

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage?
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. In light of what you've learned today, what do you need to do to obey God?

Other Questions specific to this passage:

1. Describe a time when God allowed you to use your personal testimony to glorify Him.
2. Even in the face of death, Paul's main concern was not about himself but sharing the gospel with others. How can we achieve that same singular focus in our walk with Jesus?

Assign Next week's passage – Acts 26:19-32 [Ask someone to tell the story next week]

Close in Prayer

SENT: Week 28 – Persuading a King

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: What one accomplishment are you most proud of?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context for the story [Provide context by sharing what comes before the story]

As Paul testified before the King Agrippa, he told of his former life as a Pharisee. He then recounted of how he was enraged by believers in Jesus, seeking to do everything in his power to punish them. Paul then detailed his conversion experience while on the road to Damascus, and the vision God gave him to go and take the good news to the Gentiles.

Tell the story: Acts 26:19-32 [Have someone tell the story]

Rebuild the story [Group members tell the story together based on what they remember]

Read the story out loud [Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted]

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage?
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. In light of what you've learned today, what do you need to do to obey God?

Other Questions specific to this passage:

1. Who have you known that remained faithful to God in spite of great obstacles?
2. Paul "did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision," but followed through in obedience. In what specific area of your life, do you need your faith in Jesus to increase?

Assign Next week's passage – Acts 27:13-32 [Ask someone to tell the story next week]

Close in Prayer

SENT: Week 29 – The Lord in the Storm

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: Would you rather give up your smartphone or your computer?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context for the story [Provide context by sharing what comes before the story]

Appealing his case to Caesar, Paul was ordered by Festus to be transferred to Rome by ship along with some other prisoners. The voyage is given in great detail and was a very difficult trip to make. Paul's journey was also marked by difficult weather, as they began their voyage late into the season for sea travel.

Tell the story: Acts 27:13-44 [Have someone tell the story]

Rebuild the story [Group members tell the story together based on what they remember]

Read the story out loud [Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted]

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage?
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. In light of what you've learned today, what do you need to do to obey God?

Other Questions specific to this passage:

1. Why is it hard to warn others about troubles that you can see brewing in their life?
2. While in the storm, Paul "took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of all." In what ways do you struggle showing gratitude during tough times?

Assign Next week's passage – Acts 28:1-10, 16-31 [Ask someone to tell the story next week]

Close in Prayer

SENT: Week 30 – In Rome Finally

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: If you could do anything in the next year, what would it be?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context for the story [Provide context by sharing what comes before the story]

As the waves violently began to break up the ship, the soldiers planned to kill the prisoners to keep any from escaping. The centurion stopped the soldiers' plan because he wanted to save Paul. The centurion commanded all who could swim to jump overboard and swim for shore. The rest floated on boards or parts of the ship. They all escaped safely to the island.

Tell the story: Acts 28:1-10, 16-31 [Have someone tell the story]

Rebuild the story [Group members tell the story together based on what they remember]

Read the story out loud [Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted]

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage?
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. In light of what you've learned today, what do you need to do to obey God?

Other Questions specific to this passage:

1. After our extensive look at Acts, how would you define the mission of the early church? How can we live out the mission of the early church today?
2. For two years, God placed Paul in a living situation where he could welcome others and share his faith in Jesus. Who is God calling you to engage in a gospel conversation?

Assign Next week's passage – TBD [Ask someone to tell the story next week]

Close in Prayer