

Questions for Small Group Leaders to Use in Group Sessions to Start Discipleship Conversations

There are many approaches to start a disciple-making conversation with a group. One idea to remember is that this is not a process to find fault or create judgment, but to see where we struggle and what we are willing to do to journey through our struggles. There are no best answers. Allow each group member to be where they are and find where that is. We all start in different places on our faith journeys. Expect push-back or hesitancy in the group time. Be sensitive to quiet moments in the conversation. "Read the room" when the non-verbal behavior in the group tells the group leader to stop talking and wait for someone to speak or for all to reflect silently for a moment. Most of all, pray for the Holy Spirit to guide all of you!

The following possible questions and exercises are just that. Starters for a conversation.

Exercise #1

(Questions #1-13 are a flow of questions to use together or in any combination.)

1. How many months or years have you been attending a church?
2. How many weeks, months, or years have you been in a Sunday School class or small group or Bible Study?
3. Is this an indication of how long you have called Jesus the Lord of your life?
4. How comfortable are you talking about or sharing who Jesus is with a friend or someone close to you?
5. Do you feel equipped to do this, or is this job only for pastors or church staff to do?
6. Where do you feel this "equipping" needs to come from? Your family as you grew up? Worship attendance? Bible study in some form? A mentor you have had in life? Something or someone else?
7. Are any of us in the group uncomfortable talking about this subject? Honesty is important since many feel uncomfortable with this.
8. If any of us are uncomfortable discussing the above questions, why is that?
9. Jesus gave the Great Commission in Matt 28:18-20. Read this together. Does it apply to us?
10. What needs to happen for us to be comfortable and equipped to share Jesus with others?
11. Even if you have answered that you are not comfortable talking about Jesus with someone, all of your years in worship and group classes are not wasted in your faith journey. What did those experiences provide for your faith journey? How did Jesus use them?
12. Are you a person that wants to lead someone to Jesus without words? For example, in mission work, acts of service, through music, or caring for kids? Something else?
13. Where do each of us go next in our journey? Where do we as a family of God go next in our church journey?

Exercise #2

1. Write down your faith story of your relationship with Jesus. What major events or encounters have filled you with His presence of Spirit? Where has He been a guiding force in your life? What steps have you taken to place yourself in a position where the Holy Spirit has filled you?
2. If you don't feel you have a story of faith, write down what has brought you to this church or where you want to be spiritually in one year.
3. What parts of that story can you share with someone else in your group?

Other questions to use as a group

1. Where did you see God in your life this week?
2. How is it with your soul? Is God close or far away? Do you trust God to guide you? Does He have a great track record of presence in your life?
3. Where is God challenging you? Where is God growing you?
4. What is hard in your life right now? How do you use Jesus to help you?
5. What areas or situations in your life make you want to pray more and share with others more? Want to ask others to pray for you?
6. What are you doing to be a disciple maker for Jesus?
7. Where in your life are you stepping into positions to be used by the Holy Spirit and to be in a place where you hear the Holy Spirit? Where do you push the Holy Spirit away?
8. In what areas are you growing spiritually? In what areas of life are you weak spiritually?
9. What tools do you use to grow in your relationship with Jesus? Reading the Bible or a devotional? Prayer? Group studies? Fasting? Others?
10. What do you see in others' lives that you think is missing in your spiritual life?
11. Read the Fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 6:22-23. Are these fruits present in your life? What fruits do you want more of?
12. Where are you a light for others? Matt 5:14-16
13. When do you pray? Do you feel comfortable with praying? Do you see results from prayer?
14. What service or ministry do you feel called by God to do for others?
15. What service are you currently doing?
16. If someone asked you who Jesus is, what would you say?
17. What do you want to do differently for the next week... the next month?