

Come & See: An Invitation to Lead Like Jesus

Facilitator Guide



LEAD LIKE JESUS
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The League Ministries

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Facilitators Guide

We are so excited that you are going to be starting *Come and See: An Invitation to Lead Like Jesus!* We wrote this guide to help you lead a small group through this Bible study. Your role as a facilitator is to pray for your group, guide the discussion and manage the interaction so that the group can encourage one another through what they learn in their Scripture reading and what is revealed to them by the Holy Spirit. We hope that your group will benefit greatly through your time together doing this study!

Some helpful guidelines for leading a group:

- Be in prayer for your group members.
- Prepare the area where you are going to be leading a group to reduce distractions.
- Have a basic plan for how to meet group member's needs. Some areas to consider are: greeting and hospitality, children, starting and ending times, handling of special situations or crises.
- Your role is that of a facilitator and the goal of Bible study time is for members to learn and encourage each other. We are suggesting questions to discuss in this guide to help you stimulate discussion. Members will follow your lead as you listen, respond and guide the discussion.
- Encourage everyone to be involved in the discussion.
- There are many personal questions in the study. We suggest discussing at least one per day of homework. This is to help the discussion have personal application.
- Communicate to the members that you want to support their spiritual growth and care about their personal lives.
- Have a prayer time during the meeting and encourage members to pray for one another between meetings.
- The facilitator does not have to be the most knowledgeable person in the room, but he/she does need to be the most prepared. However, you don't have to have an answer for every question that may come up in the group. Be willing to defer to another or consult with someone you feel is knowledgeable on the topic in question.
- A leader ACTS to facilitate discussions by:
 - Acknowledging everyone who speaks during a discussion
 - Clarifying what is being said and felt.
 - Turning it back to the group as a means to generating discussion
 - Summarizing what has been said. ⁱ

Session 1

The purpose of the first session is to introduce the study and allow the group members to become acquainted with one another. It would be helpful to have name tags and some kind of registration material so that you can obtain contact information.

- Open with prayer.
- Introduce yourself, explain your role as a facilitator, and why you are excited to do this study together
- Have group members briefly introduce themselves. Ask them why they chose this study or some other ice breaker question.
- Look at the books together and discuss the format of the study and discussion.
- Motivate participation by discussing the benefits of small group Bible study
 - Share and discover Biblical truths together
 - Be inspired by new ways to apply what is learned
 - Encourage each other to be in God's Word and do the study
 - Building relationships to feel connected as members walk the journey with the Lord together.
- Explain guidelines for group discussion and any that are specific to your group.
Examples:
 - That the group will begin and end on time.
 - That the group will be discussing some of the answers from their week of study.
 - Discussion should be honoring to God, members, and others.
 - Please keep comments relevant to the material studied.
- Close in prayer.

For Sessions 2 through 5 this guide will provide a summary for each day as well as discussion questions for your group meeting. You may use the summary as a part of your introduction to each day or in transition from one day to the next.

Session 2: Walking in Fellowship with God

Day 1: God's Desire for Fellowship

We open our study at the beginning of creation and God's relationship with man and woman. Adam and Eve could have fellowship with God and be in God's presence without any barriers. When sin entered their relationship, God initiated His perfect plan to restore that intimate fellowship that He knew would be lost. We focus this first day on the lives of three men through whom God would begin His plan for fellowship all people.

Discussion questions:

- 1) How did God manifest His presence to the Israelites? (p. 18)
- 2) The Israelites experienced God with them continually for the first time as guide and light. How are you being led by the Holy Spirit? (p. 18)

Day 2: God's Dwelling Place with the Children of Israel

Today we looked at the tabernacle that God established where He promised to dwell with the people of Israel. God required atonement for the sins of the priests that would serve at the tabernacle and for the people in order to be in relationship with Him. Through the blood and water of sacrifice, the people were reconciled to God for a time. Today we are reconciled to God through the blood and water of Christ's sacrifice once and for all time. For Israel, God's presence was in the midst of the people in the tabernacle. For us, God's presence is with each of us because of the cleansing of the cross.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Why are the five sacrifices required of the Israelites no longer necessary? (p. 23)
- 2) By what can we confidently draw near to God? (p. 24)

Day 3: God's Design for Fellowship

Day 3 focuses on the concept of the need for ongoing cleansing. In Christ, we are cleansed from our sin unto salvation. To experience God's presence and serve Him fully every day we look to the mirror of the Word of God. The Word and the work of the Holy Spirit will enable us to see ourselves clearly and be cleansed. As we act in obedience to Christ, we read in John 14:20 that we will have such a close relationship with Jesus that it will be, "you are in me and I am in you."

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What picture does James use to describe the Word? (p. 25)
- 2) Describe an encounter you have had with Jesus? (p. 28)

Day 4: God's Dwelling Place Today

This day is an in-depth look at the ministry of the Holy Spirit. We look at the lamp stand as a representation of the Holy Spirit in the tabernacle. The lamp stand, the bread and the incense in the tabernacle is a picture of fellowship with God. We will read when God removed His presence from the tabernacle because of the idolatry of the Israelites. God's presence is absent for 400 years then returns in the person of Jesus! Our study will turn to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives today. And the promise that He will not leave us!

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What does this passage describe? (p. 32)
- 2) Record what the Holy Spirit is doing in these passages. (p. 33)

Day 5: God's Disciples' Promised Relationship

We finish our week studying John 13 with Jesus washing the disciples' feet. Jesus taught the disciples one more lesson about fellowship with Him and with one another through washing their feet. Jesus told the disciples that they were clean, but He needed to wash just their feet. To have a part with Christ we need that total cleansing through salvation and Jesus ongoing cleansing. To have Christ-like fellowship with one another we need to lay down our own pride to serve.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What did Jesus say? (p. 36)
- 2) When did you last feel this same sense of urgency—to have a part with Jesus with all of your being—as Peter did? Please describe your experience. (p. 36)

Session 3: The Heart

Day 1: A New Heart

When we become a follower of Christ, God will begin to take us on a journey to transform our hearts. Today we looked at what God wants us to do with our hearts and why it is important to examine what is happening with our heart motivations. God is willing to do a miraculous work in our hearts if we are willing to choose to follow Him.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) How do we obtain a new heart? (p. 40)
- 2) Describe a time when you prayed a similar prayer to the Lord. (p. 42)

Day 2: A Worshipping Heart

The first question to ask of our hearts is: do we fear the Lord, walk in His ways, love Him and serve Him with all our heart? (Deut. 10:12-13) We examine the benefits of choosing to worship the Lord above any other and the benefits of trusting in the Lord's plan for our lives. The day ends with the passage in Matthew where Jesus describes the cost of being a disciple in this world. Even in that difficult passage there are promises Jesus gives us if we follow Him alone.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) The call of Jesus is total devotion to Him. Let's look at the following verses and record what we learn about worshipping and loving the Lord. (p.45)
- 2) How have you experienced these benefits of trusting the Lord? (p. 48)

Day 3: A Protected Heart

Jesus throughout His ministry addressed two issues that interfere with our relationship with Him and serving Him: pride and fear. He addressed the Pharisees' prideful motivations that rendered their service meaningless and clouded their ability to know Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus often spoke to the disciples about their fear in this world and encouraged them to fear and trust the Lord. We will end this week by looking at how to protect our hearts from pride and worldly fear.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Give an example of a time you felt pride influenced your behavior or your relationship with the Lord. (p. 49)
- 2) Describe the God you serve today. (p. 52)
- 3) What does Paul see that Timothy needs to guard against? How can that apply in our lives? (p. 53)

Day 4: A Confident Heart

We can live out our lives in confidence when we are obedient to God's plan for us. We read that God will *enlarge* our hearts as we seek to follow Him. He will be at work within us to increase our ability to love and follow Him. Today we considered the times that it is difficult to walk in obedience, and looked at the promises Jesus' gives us if we do. Because we can let go of fear and move in confidence of God's plan, we find that the relationships around us are changed.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What are some other ways you *take up your cross*? (p. 56)
- 2) What fruit do you see in your life today that is a result of your relationship with Jesus? (p. 58)

Day 5: A Humble Heart

This day we spent examining Jesus' choice to humble Himself to come to earth from heaven, to endure mock trials, torture and death, to feel God's rejection of our sin placed on Him; all to complete God's plan to redeem us to Himself. Because of Jesus' great love for God and us, He chose to humble Himself. Look at Philippians 2 that you read today. Paul challenges us to have that same attitude as Jesus – willing to humble ourselves to love God and others. This is a love that we cannot produce ourselves, but that Jesus imparts in us through the Holy Spirit.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What was Jesus' attitude? (p. 59)
- 2) Have you see changes in your ability to love like Paul describes? Give some examples. (p. 63)

Session 4: The Head

Day 1: Jesus' Leadership Point of View

Today we looked at God's view of people while also considering Jesus' leadership point of view. We can't lead as Jesus told us and how He modeled without the security of knowing God's love for us and our standing with Him. It is so important to look at our lives and examine whether or not our behavior reflects Jesus' words, "Not so with you." Our identity in Christ enables us to not abuse our authority, but to serve like Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What comes to mind when you hear the word leadership? Describe those thoughts and be prepared to share with your group. (p. 67)
- 2) Immediately following this description, Jesus boldly communicated His leadership point of view, that of the Kingdom of God, to His disciples. What did He say and what does it mean? (p. 67)

Day 2: Jesus' Mission

Jesus' mission was to glorify God through revealing God's character in Him and to enable people to receive that character through the forgiveness of the cross and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. We glorify God when the fruit of the Spirit is demonstrated in our lives. We read, "*This is to my Father's glory that you bear much fruit...*" (John 15:8). The fruit we are to bear is the character of Jesus: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) In what ways are you becoming more like Jesus in your "thing"? (p. 73)
- 2) What does Jesus say glorifies God? (p. 74)
- 3) What thinking and attitudes need radical adjustments in your life to match those of Jesus? (p. 75)

Day 3: Jesus' Core Values

All of Jesus' actions were motivated by His mission and were governed by two values: His love for God, the Father, and His love for people. We looked at our behaviors to see if they align with Jesus' values. When our actions don't reflect these values and we fear our relationship with God is broken, Jesus offers us an opportunity to be restored as we read in the life of Peter. Praise God!

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Write those core values, rank-ordered below: (p. 78)
- 2) Describe was the last time you were irritated with the suggestion to consider a simple switch to restore a relationship? (p. 80)

Day 4: Picture of the Future

Jesus gave the disciples a picture of the future when He would gather all believers to Himself and reign on the earth. To prepare for that future Jesus commissioned His followers to have a role in gathering believers. Disciples of Jesus are to make more disciples! We choose to make Jesus' values of loving God and others our own values and we choose to influence others through servant leadership and now we choose to make Jesus' desires for the future our own!

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Read Colossians 3:12-17 and record the description. (p. 85)
- 2) Which of these descriptions are you actively seeking God's help in making real in your life? (p. 85)

Day 5: Self-Assessment

We studied Jesus' prayer in John 17. The focus on the day was to consider how that prayer has been answered in your life. As we look at our lives, who do we want to help know Jesus better? To whom are we revealing God as Jesus prayed in v. 6? This is a day of looking at ourselves through the lens of Jesus' prayer and praying John 17 for ourselves. As you end the study of the week, listen to *From the Inside Out*.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) How would you describe Jesus in bringing glory to God and completing the work He had been given? (p. 88)
- 2) These verses tell us the world does not know God, Jesus knows God and believers know God sent Jesus. Jesus made God known! How do you make God known and why? (p. 90)
- 3) Whew! With this incredible understanding, read John 17 as your prayer and record verses and phrases that the Holy Spirit reveals for your use as you evaluate your leadership in God's Kingdom today. (p. 93)

Session 5: The Hands

Day 1: Ineffective Relationships

In Week 2 we studied how pride and fear can interfere with our relationship with God. This week we examine how pride and fear create problems in our relationships with others and, as Christ-followers, how we can positively influence relationships. On Day 1 you looked at how pride and fear lead to conflicts, competition, suspicion, paralysis, exploitation and manipulation in relationships. It was a difficult day thinking about where our own pride and fear have erected barriers in relationships and in accomplishing shared goals.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Who was afraid? (p. 99)
- 2) What was the fear of each? (p. 99)
- 3) How do you impose your way on those under your influence in such a way it plays on their insecurities? (p. 101)

Day 2: Effective Relationships

In Day 2 we shift gears from how we contribute to the problems in relationship to how we can contribute to positive change in relationships. As a leader we can minister to others when we see that they are acting out of pride or fears. When we are the follower, we can witness to our leaders behaving out of humility and God-confidence. When our hearts are changed by God's love for us and our minds are focused on the Lord our relationships will change and we'll be able to do the tasks God has assigned us to do.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) David and Jonathan, the son of King Saul, were best friends. King Saul was trying to kill David. Both David and Jonathan could have brought fear and pride into their friendship. Instead, what was their goal? (p. 106)
- 2) What is the unique resource at the disposal of the followers of Jesus? (p. 107)

Day 3: The Way of Grace

One of the character traits the Holy Spirit develops in us is the ability to extend grace in relationships, especially difficult relationships. The grace God extended to us changes our hearts to extend grace to others. Read the definition again: grace – unmerited kindness towards another. That kindness will be felt by people we find difficult to

relate to when we are fully present in the moment with them, we extend acceptance of where they are and how God made them, and when we seek to serve them.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What was the result of Jesus extending grace to this woman? (p. 109)
- 2) Who is your area of influence needs grace? How would results and relationships be different if they felt your commitment to them was your number one priority? (p. 112)

Day 4: The Way of Forgiveness

Forgiveness is a gift we can extend in relationships that can provide both a powerful witness and opportunity to minister whether we are a leader or follower. Joseph's life is a picture of Jesus. He was unjustly treated, yet he responded by doing the Father's will. He was able to model the Father's love, mercy, and forgiveness to his brothers which ultimately saved their lives. Our ministry of forgiveness can have the same impact of saving a life for eternity!

Discussion Questions:

- 1) How was Joseph able to handle the roller coaster ride of prospering one day and thrown into a dungeon the next? (p. 115)
- 2) What role, if any, does bitterness have in your life? What steps could you take to remove it? (p. 116)

Day 5: The Way of an Apology

Extending forgiveness and asking for forgiveness requires that we lay down our own pride and fears. They are both acts of thanksgiving for what the Lord has done for us and trust in the Lord's plans for us. We read this week that our relationship with the Lord is impacted by broken relationships in our lives. As a Christ-follower, we need to be committed to humbly acknowledge when we have hurt others and seek to repair relationships through an apology.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What does Jesus teach us about our relationships with others? (p. 119)
- 2) How can we move past our pride and fear to apologize in humility? (p. 121)

Session 6: The Habits

Day 1: The Habit of Solitude and Prayer, Part 1

Today we looked at Jesus' example of when He spent time with God alone. Jesus had a habit of separating and being alone to pray. His choice to go by himself and pray wasn't just in difficult or crisis situations where we, more naturally in our desperation, seek the Lord. We looked at Jesus after doing miracles and before choosing His disciples. In each of these situations, He spent time alone with God. We were challenged at the end of this day to spend time of our own quietly with the Lord. If you think appropriate for you group, have one person share from their time of solitude (p. 128-129).

Discussion Questions:

- 1) How did Jesus respond? (p. 124)
- 2) According to verse 23, how did Jesus respond to the praise and recognition that he likely received? (p. 125)
- 3) What can you do, as Jesus did, to tune in to God's desires for you in your decisions? (p. 127)

Day 2: The Habit of Solitude and Prayer, Part 2

In a love relationship with another, we are expected to reveal our hearts to that person. We do that best when we communicate with words as well as actions. The people with whom we feel closest listen to our thoughts and feelings, and share their thoughts and feelings with us. Our love relationship with the Lord also grows as we listen to Him and reveal our hearts to Him through prayer. Jesus taught us to pray in a way that included worship, recognizing our need for Him, and our willingness to seek and obey God's will in our lives.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Think about your prayers this past week. How much time did you spend in relationship with God through prayer? (p. 130)
- 2) What was Jesus' attitude toward God's will? (p. 132)
- 3) How has God revealed Himself to you this week? What name or characteristic of God comes to mind? What has He done specifically for you? (p. 135)

Day 3: The Habit of Knowing and Applying Scripture

We started this day being reminded that God's Word will penetrate deep in our souls and will reveal what is hidden in our hearts. Why would we want that? Because God's Word is life and salvation to our hearts! As we read Scripture, we come to know God, to understand His love for us more fully, to know His will for us and be able to face the trials and temptations of our day. Developing habits of listening, reading, memorizing, and meditating on God's Word will open opportunities for God to work in us to make us new and equip us to lead others toward Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What questions did Jesus ask the religious leaders and why? (p. 137)
- 2) What is your motivation to read the Word of God? (p. 137)
- 3) When was the last time the Word of God consumed your thoughts? (p. 140)

Day 4: The Habit of Accepting God's Unconditional Love

This habit seemed elementary when I first encountered this thought. Why develop a habit of accepting God's love daily? The truth is we do forget. We begin to judge ourselves as unworthy. We begin to judge others as unworthy. Taking the time to accept God's love for us and to remember the price He paid for us to be called His sons and daughters, releases us from the tendency to judge ourselves or others. We read in Ephesians that when we, through the power of the Holy Spirit, know God's love that is '*beyond knowledge*' we will be filled with '*all the fullness of God*'. Be strengthened, healed, and transformed by the unconditional love of God!

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What does Paul ask God to grant to these believers in v. 16? (p. 143)
- 2) In what ways do you need to be strengthened this week? (p. 144)
- 3) This prayer is for those *rooted and established in love* to grasp and know what? (p. 144)
- 4) What do you think is meant by *rooted and established in love*? (p. 144)

Day 5: The Habit of Accountability

Jesus called a community of twelve to be in close relationship with Him to reveal God's heart more intimately. He further chose three with whom He shared His glory on the mountain and His agony in Gethsemane. We need people in close relationship with whom we are revealing what God is doing in our lives and with whom we share our

struggles and intimate experiences with the Lord. It is a choice we make to develop relationships with those who will love us, forgive our sin and speak truth into our lives.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Are you this kind of friend for someone else? If not, why? (p. 149)
- 2) In what way does Jesus love? (p. 149)

Conclude your study with a celebration!

It has required a lot of work to reach this point! Have group members share what they are taking from this study into the future. What has changed for them? What truth did they learn about the Lord? About themselves?

Congratulations! We are so proud and excited for what God is going to do in you and your group!

For more information on ...

**... leading like Jesus, visit www.LeadLikeJesus.com,
or call 800.383.6890**

**... leading groups and small group ministry in your local church, visit
www.theleagueministries.org.**

ⁱ Donahue, Bill, *Leading Life-Changing Groups* (Illinois: Willow Creek Association, 2002)