

LESSON 2

CHOOSING

Lesson #2 and discussion questions for home fellowships

Date _____

PREPARATION:

Review the "Preparation" section for "First Meeting." Especially in these early meetings with your group, it is important that you encourage group members to share experiences in a relaxed manner. Keep in mind that this should happen naturally out of the Bible study and prayer time.

Notes: _____

PURPOSES:

1. To learn about types of choices we face in this life
2. To discover what choices the disciples of Jesus made and why.
3. To help us realize that Jesus chose us.
4. To understand why we are gathering in this group.

DIGGING DEEPER:

Psalm 65:4-7, Proverbs 8:10-11, Mark 3:13-19, John 15:16-19, Acts 6:1-6, I Corinthians 1:26-31

HOW CAN A GROUP MEETING "BE CREATIVE"?

As was mentioned before, "flexibility" is the operative word when it comes to group meetings. In general, meetings may often follow a "formula" of worship, teaching, prayer time, discussion and fellowship, but they do not have to. Follow the Holy Spirit's leading. Sense the spirit of group members as they come to the group meeting. Do you need to spend most of the time in prayer because a group member is going through a crisis? Gather around the hurting member and support him or her in prayer. Do the group members seem to want worship to never end? Then keep praising the Lord for the whole evening! Is the topic you are teaching generating a lot of discussion and interest? When everyone is involved with the discussion allow time for it, but remember to dismiss on time.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR GROUP LEADERS:

- Prayer, study and preparation are important! Watch and listen for areas in the group members' lives that you can cover in the group teachings.
- Make lots of phone calls to keep in touch with every one, along with personal visits.
- Have everyone in your group covered in prayer by some one. As a group leader, you can pray for your assistant leaders (if you have them) each day.
- Get assistant leaders to help cover the group members in prayer. God's best is to be sure every group member is covered in prayer daily.

Other thoughts:

- Groups need to be varied to avoid getting predictable and boring.
- Train as many assistant leaders as possible to lighten the load. It's hard to be creative when you are burned out!
- Get others to help make phone calls when needed.
- Occasionally meet at someone else's house for the group meeting to give the regular meeting place a break.
- Take occasional offerings for group expenses that come up, so you can be ready for any special projects.

OPENING PRAYER/WORSHIP (10 minutes)

"Dear Lord! We're forever grateful that You loved the world so much that You chose to give Your only Son that we might believe in Him and have eternal life. We thank You for placing us together in this group so that together we can build relationships with each other and with You. We ask Your direction for us as we learn about choices and Your guidance in all the choices we make. May they all be in Your will.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/SPECIAL OFFERINGS (5 minutes)

During this time you need to talk about the needs of the people and the needs of the group. The announcements can be "Today Randy lost his job. We will need to pray about it at the end of the meeting. But may be someone knows of a job for him?" Or it can be a little word about the offerings and than taking them. It can be both – announcements and offerings. But don't spend too much time on that.

GETTING STARTED (20 minutes)

Ask the group members: "Do all of you like ice cream?" (While most people do, you may need to explain that this *is a personal choice* - not a case of being right or wrong!) Then ask what their *favorite flavors* are. (Again you need to affirm that these are personal choices.) Finally, ask them: "How many of you would steal an ice cream from someone smaller or weaker if it was your favorite flavor?"

(Discuss how this is an entirely different kind of choice involving sin.)

Lead the group in a discussion of choices. (Allowing them as much input as possible, get them to see that choices may vary from insignificant to very important.)

HEARING THE WORD (10 minutes)

Watch for choices in the following passages: "The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" When the two disciples heard him say this they followed Jesus. Turning around Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), where are You staying?" "Come, he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where He was staying, and spent that day with Him. It was about the tenth hour. Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter). The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow Me." Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathaniel and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathaniel asked. "Come and see," said Philip. When Jesus saw Nathaniel approaching, he said of him, "Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false." "How do you know me?" Nathaniel asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." Then Nathaniel declared, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel!"

DOING THE WORD (10 minutes)

Ask, "What choices did Jesus' followers make and why they were important?" "How do these passages influence our lives and what did we learn from them?" After discussing the above questions, lead into a survey of important choices we make: Schooling, Vocation, Marriage, Becoming a Christian, Belonging to the group. Then talk about how to make a choice and how do we know whether it's the right one.

Encourage the members to think about and pray about the group during the coming week, especially choices they can make to help the group.

CONCERNS/ANSWERS (5 minutes)

GROUP PRAYER (15 minutes)

(Special prayer requests and/or thanksgivings may be added here). In Jesus name. Amen."