
Connection Group (Small Group)

Week 1: Sacrifice – God gave His Son so we give all to Him

Luke 14:25-35



WELCOME

[greet everyone in your group, make sure new believers and guests feel valued & welcomed. Co-facilitator do the same.]

OPENING PRAYER

PURPOSE/VISION CASTING *[Remind everyone our purpose is to grow in our relationship with God and each other; to glorify God and pursue people (multiply our group to reach more), and help each other think and live like Christ with the people around us – family, friends, neighbors, co-workers.]*

REVIEW GROUP GUIDELINES *[How we practice loving and respecting each other. Review these each week for the first several weeks, and when you have new people; ask group members to name them off.]*

PREPARING OUR HEARTS *[Remind everyone that someone will tell the story as our Bibles are closed; ask everyone stay personally engaged with what God is saying; we're not discussing "what the passage means" but "what is God saying" to each of us; encourage everyone to share as God leads them – we share our hearts out of obedience to the Holy Spirit, not to please someone else]*

TODAY'S STORY/SETTING THE SCENE *[Introduce the passage reference; Bibles closed for now; provide the context by sharing what happens before this story.]*

Luke 14:25-35 It is the Sabbath and Jesus is at the house of a prominent Pharisee, He is being carefully watched. Because it is the Sabbath Jesus challenges everyone on what is lawful and acceptable. Jesus teaches the guests on humility and serving others.

TELL THE STORY *[Ask someone ahead of time to tell the story, ie. your co-facilitator. If you have new people, explain this intentional process (Story it, Rebuild it, Read it).]*

Luke 14:25-35 The Cost of Being a Disciple

REBUILD THE STORY *[With their Bibles open, the group rebuilds the story based on what they remember. Let participants know as we share, we are not giving commentary or teaching the group what we know. Say, "Ok, let's read the Scripture". Ask, "If someone is comfortable, please read the passage.]*

READ THE STORY ALOUD *[Let the group observe if anything was left out or added to the story.]*

Luke 14:25-35 *Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. "Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."*

DEBRIEF/DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS *[Questions marked * are the key questions that should to be discussed. Other questions are optional **if time allows**. Keep in mind that these questions are for the purpose of BUILDING CURIOSITY AS TO WHAT GOD IS SHOWING THEM, rather than a time for you or anyone in the group to "teach" them something.]*

1. ***What do we learn about God from this passage?** (God understands our weak faith; Jesus continues to disciple them; The Holy Spirit is our power to be His witnesses. He is our Comforter; He has work for me to do)
2. **What did Jesus mean be Luke 14:26?** How can we hate our family when we are told to love everyone?
3. ***What do we learn about man/us from this passage?** (I can set my mind on earthly things; when I choose not to trust and wait on God I can limit God's power; I can put God in a "box"; I often need explicit instructions from God; I don't like to wait.)
4. **What does it mean in verse 27 when Jesus says "whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple?"**
5. **What is the main point of this passage?**
6. ***What is God leading you to do?** Sum up your "take-away" in a word or short sentence.
7. ***Who will you tell this week what God has shown you in His Word today?**

ASSIGN NEXT WEEK'S PASSAGE Psalm 99, Psalm, 21:13, Psalm 34:1 and 1 Corinthians 10:31 *[Tell everyone the passage reference for next week and to read it several times during their week. Ask if anyone would volunteer to tell the story next week.]*

PRAYER REQUESTS *[Encourage the group to keep it personal and brief, allowing others time to share their praises and requests. Explain that they are invited to share if God has put something on their heart, but they don't have to have something to share every week.]*

HUDDLE *[As members are leaving gather your team and...]*

1) *identify which couples/individual members were absent. Decide and assign someone to contact them that afternoon...*

2) *identify your guests and assign someone to contact them that afternoon to thank them and invite them back...*

3) *did someone share a situation or need during small group that needs encouragement? Ask them if it's ok if a member can call them maybe have coffee during the week to just pray with them and encourage them. Ask someone to contact them during the week.]*

Group Guidelines

Safe Group	Confidentiality
Listen	Pause
Silence	No "Cross Talk"
Sharing	Don't Fix
Don't Recue	Be Self-Aware
Use "I" Statements	Personal Application
Conflict	

Connection Group (Small Group)

Week 2: Exalt – God is supreme so we exalt Him

Psalm 99



WELCOME

[Greet everyone in your group, make sure new believers and guests feel valued & welcomed. Co-facilitator do the same.]

OPENING PRAYER

PURPOSE/VISION CASTING *[Remind everyone our purpose is to grow in our relationship with God and each other; to glorify God and pursue people (multiply our group to reach more), and help each other think and live like Christ with the people around us – family, friends, neighbors, co-workers.]*

REVIEW GROUP GROUND RULES *[How we practice loving and respecting each other. Review these each week for the first several weeks, and when you have new people; ask group members to name them off.]*

PREPARING OUR HEARTS *[Remind everyone that someone will tell the story as our Bibles are closed; ask everyone stay personally engaged with what God is saying; we're not discussing "what the passage means" but "what is God saying" to each of us; encourage everyone to share as God leads them – we share our hearts out of obedience to the Holy Spirit, not to please someone else]*

TODAY'S STORY/SETTING THE SCENE *[Introduce the passage reference, Bibles closed for now; provide the context by sharing what happens in the selected passage(s).]*

Psalm 99 identifies God as king. He is not just any king, however, but the "Mighty King" who is over all nations, and before whom all nations should "tremble".

TELL THE STORY *[Ask someone ahead of time to tell the story: ie. your co-facilitator. If you have new people, explain this intentional process (Story it, Rebuild it, Read it).]*

Explain and review the Psalm

REBUILD THE STORY *[With their Bibles open, the group rebuilds the story based on what they remember. Let participants know as we share, we are not giving commentary or teaching the group what we know. Say, "Ok, let's read the Scripture". Ask, "If someone is comfortable, please read the passage.]"*

READ THE PASSAGE ALOUD *[Let the group observe if anything was left out or added to the story.]*

Psalm 99 The Lord reigns, let the nations tremble; he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake. Great is the Lord in Zion; He is exalted over all the nations. Let them praise your great and awesome name – He is holy. The King is mighty, He loves justice – you have established equity; in Jacob you have done what is just and right. Exalt the Lord our God and worship at His footstool; He is holy. Moses and Aaron were among His priests, Samuel was among those who called His name; they called on the Lord and He answered them. He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud; they kept His statutes and the decrees He gave them. Lord our God you answered them; you were to Israel a forgiving God, though you punished their misdeeds. Exalt the Lord our God and worship at His holy mountain for the Lord our God is holy.

DEBRIEF/DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS *[Questions marked * are the key questions that should be discussed. Other questions are optional **if time allows**. Keep in mind that these questions are for the purpose of BUILDING CURIOSITY AS TO WHAT GOD IS SHOWING THEM, rather than a time for you or anyone in the group to "teach" them something.]*

1. ***What do we learn about God from this passage?**
2. **What does it mean to exalt God**
3. ***What do we learn about man/us from this passage?**

4. **What would your relationships be like if you were more concerned for God's glory than your own?
What is the main point of this passage?**
5. **What would our marriages be like if we together sought his glory above all else?**
6. ***What is God leading you to do?** Sum up your "take-away" in a word or short sentence.
7. ***Who will you tell this week what God has shown you in His Word today?**

ASSIGN NEXT WEEK'S PASSAGE Matthew 7:24-29 *[Tell everyone the passage reference for next week and to read it several times during their week. Ask if anyone would volunteer to tell the story next week.]*

PRAYER REQUESTS *[Encourage the group to keep it personal and brief, allowing others time to share their praises and requests. Explain that they are invited to share if God has put something on their heart, but they don't have to have something to share every week.]*

HUDDLE *[As members are leaving gather your team and...]*

1) *identify which couples/individual members were absent. Decide and assign someone to contact them that afternoon...*

2) *identify your guests and assign someone to contact them that afternoon to thank them and invite them back...*

3) *did someone share a situation or need during small group that needs encouragement? Ask them if it's ok if a member can call them maybe have coffee during the week to just pray with them and encourage them. Ask someone to contact them during the week.]*



Connection Group (Small Group)

Week 3 Learn – God is the great teacher so we learn from Him

Psalm 99



WELCOME

[Greet everyone in your group, make sure new believers and guests feel valued & welcomed. Co-facilitator do the same.]

OPENING PRAYER

PURPOSE/VISION CASTING *[Remind everyone our purpose is to grow in our relationship with God and each other; to glorify God and pursue people (multiply our group to reach more), and help each other think and live like Christ with the people around us – family, friends, neighbors, co-workers.]*

REVIEW GROUP GROUND RULES *[How we practice loving and respecting each other. Review these each week for the first several weeks, and when you have new people; ask group members to name them off.]*

PREPARING OUR HEARTS *[Remind everyone that someone will tell the story as our Bibles are closed; ask everyone to stay personally engaged with what God is saying; we're not discussing "what the passage means" but "what is God saying" to each of us; encourage everyone to share as God leads them – we share our hearts out of obedience to the Holy Spirit, not to please someone else]*

TODAY'S STORY/SETTING THE SCENE *[Introduce the passage reference, Bibles closed for now; provide the context by sharing what happens in the selected passage(s).]*

Begin with this thought and question: Stop and think about the house that you live in, describe your house to the group.

Set the scene for this passage: Matthew 7:24-29

TELL THE STORY *[Ask someone ahead of time to tell the story: ie. your co-facilitator. If you have new people, explain this intentional process (Story it, Rebuild it, Read it).]*

The Wise and Foolish Builder

REBUILD THE STORY *[With their Bibles open, the group rebuilds the story based on what they remember. Let participants know as we share, we are not giving commentary or teaching the group what we know. Say, "Ok, let's read the Scripture". Ask, "If someone is comfortable, please read the passage.]"*

READ THE STORY ALOUD *[Let the group observe if anything was left out or added to the story.]*

Matthew 7:24-29 *Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew, and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, the winds blew, and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash. When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at His teaching, because He taught as one with authority, and not as their teachers of the law.*

DEBRIEF/DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS *[Questions marked * are the key questions that should be discussed. Other questions are optional **if time allows**. Keep in mind that these questions are for the purpose of BUILDING CURIOSITY AS TO WHAT GOD IS SHOWING THEM, rather than a time for you or anyone in the group to "teach" them something.]*

1. ***What do we learn about God from this passage?** (God understands our needs; Jesus continues to teach us)
2. **Who is Jesus referring to when He says, "everyone who hears?" Do we hear His words? How do we put them into practice?**

3. ***What do we learn about man/us from this passage?**
4. **What personal storms have you experienced in the past year? What did you learn about your spiritual foundation?**
5. ***What is God leading you to do?** Sum up your “take-away” in a word or short sentence.
6. ***Who will you tell this week what God has shown you in His Word today?**

ASSIGN NEXT WEEK’S PASSAGE Matthew 6:5-15 *[Tell everyone the passage reference for next week and to read it several times during their week. Ask if anyone would volunteer to tell the story next week.]*

PRAYER REQUESTS *[Encourage the group to keep it personal and brief, allowing others time to share their praises and requests. Explain that they are invited to share if God has put something on their heart, but they don’t have to have something to share every week.]*

HUDDLE *[As members are leaving gather your team and...*

1) identify which couples/individual members were absent. Decide and assign someone to contact them that afternoon...

2) identify your guests and assign someone to contact them that afternoon to thank them and invite them back...

3) did someone share a situation or need during small group that needs encouragement? Ask them if it’s ok if a member can call them maybe have coffee during the week to just pray with them and encourage them. Ask someone to contact them during the week.]



Connection Group (Small Group)

Week 4 Pray – God Speak So We Listen to Him

Matthew 6:5-15



WELCOME

[Greet everyone in your group, make sure new believers and guests feel valued & welcomed. Co-facilitator do the same.]

OPENING PRAYER

PURPOSE/VISION CASTING *[Remind everyone our purpose is to grow in our relationship with God and each other; to glorify God and pursue people (multiply our group to reach more), and help each other think and live like Christ with the people around us – family, friends, neighbors, co-workers.]*

REVIEW GROUP GROUND RULES *[How we practice loving and respecting each other. Review these each week for the first several weeks, and when you have new people; ask group members to name them off.]*

PREPARING OUR HEARTS *[Remind everyone that someone will tell the story as our Bibles are closed; ask everyone to stay personally engaged with what God is saying; we're not discussing "what the passage means" but "what is God saying" to each of us; encourage everyone to share as God leads them – we share our hearts out of obedience to the Holy Spirit, not to please someone else]*

TODAY'S STORY/SETTING THE SCENE *[Introduce the passage reference, Bibles closed for now; provide the context by sharing what happens in the selected passage(s).]*

Matthew 6:5-15 Prayer Jesus is in the midst of the Sermon on the Mound, He has taught many things and see's the need to speak on prayer.

TELL THE STORY *[Ask someone ahead of time to tell the story: ie. your co-facilitator. If you have new people, explain this intentional process (Story it, Rebuild it, Read it).]*

Prayer, and when you pray

REBUILD THE STORY *[With their Bibles open, the group rebuilds the story based on what they remember. Let participants know as we share, we are not giving commentary or teaching the group what we know. Say, "Ok, let's read the Scripture". Ask, "If someone is comfortable, please read the passage.]"*

READ THE STORY ALOUD *[Let the group observe if anything was left out or added to the story.]*

Matthew 6:5-15 *And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men, I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.*

This is then how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

DEBRIEF/DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS *[Questions marked * are the key questions that should be discussed. Other questions are optional **if time allows**. Keep in mind that these questions are for the purpose of BUILDING CURIOSITY AS TO WHAT GOD IS SHOWING THEM, rather than a time for you or anyone in the group to "teach" them something.]*

1. ***What do we learn about God from this passage?** (God wants us to talk with Him on a personal level)
2. **What is a hypocrite?** (People gave the appearance that they were close to God, but in reality they only cared about what others thought)
3. **Do you find yourself in this place at times? Can anyone give an example?**
4. ***What do we learn about man/us from this passage?**
5. **From this passage, do you understand the personal interest God has in you?**
6. **Why is it important to ask God for forgiveness?**
7. ***What is God leading you to do?** Sum up your “take-away” in a word or short sentence.
8. ***Who will you tell this week what God has shown you in His Word today?**

ASSIGN NEXT WEEK’S PASSAGE Acts 9:1-19 *[Tell everyone the passage reference for next week and to read it several times during their week. Ask if anyone would volunteer to tell the story next week.]*

PRAYER REQUESTS *[Encourage the group to keep it personal and brief, allowing others time to share their praises and requests. Explain that they are invited to share if God has put something on their heart, but they don’t have to have something to share every week.]*

HUDDLE *[As members are leaving gather your team and...*

1) identify which couples/individual members were absent. Decide and assign someone to contact them that afternoon...

2) identify your guests and assign someone to contact them that afternoon to thank them and invite them back...

3) did someone share a situation or need during small group that needs encouragement? Ask them if it’s ok if a member can call them maybe have coffee during the week to just pray with them and encourage them. Ask someone to contact them during the week.]

Connection Group (Small Group)

Week 5 Pursue – God Pursues People so we Pursue People

Acts 9:1-9



WELCOME

[Greet everyone in your group, make sure new believers and guests feel valued & welcomed. Co-facilitator do the same.]

OPENING PRAYER

PURPOSE/VISION CASTING *[Remind everyone our purpose is to grow in our relationship with God and each other; to glorify God and pursue people (multiply our group to reach more), and help each other think and live like Christ with the people around us – family, friends, neighbors, co-workers.]*

REVIEW GROUP GROUND RULES *[How we practice loving and respecting each other. Review these each week for the first several weeks, and when you have new people; ask group members to name them off.]*

PREPARING OUR HEARTS *[Remind everyone that someone will tell the story as our Bibles are closed; ask everyone to stay personally engaged with what God is saying; we're not discussing "what the passage means" but "what is God saying" to each of us; encourage everyone to share as God leads them – we share our hearts out of obedience to the Holy Spirit, not to please someone else]*

TODAY'S STORY/SETTING THE SCENE *[Introduce the passage reference, Bibles closed for now; provide the context by sharing what happens in the selected passage(s).]*

Acts 9:1-19 Today we will look at the transformation of the Apostle Paul, this is one of the greatest transformational encounters in all of Scripture.

TELL THE STORY *[Ask someone ahead of time to tell the story: ie. your co-facilitator. If you have new people, explain this intentional process (Story it, Rebuild it, Read it).]*

Saul's Conversion

REBUILD THE STORY *[With their Bibles open, the group rebuilds the story based on what they remember. Let participants know as we share, we are not giving commentary or teaching the group what we know. Ask, "If someone is comfortable, please read the passage.]*

READ THE STORY ALOUD *[Let the group observe if anything was left out or added to the story.]*

Acts 9:1-19 Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

The Lord told him, “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.”

“Lord,” Ananias answered, “I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.”

But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”

Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

DEBRIEF/DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS [Questions marked * are the key questions that should be discussed. Other questions are optional **if time allows**. Keep in mind that these questions are for the purpose of BUILDING CURIOSITY AS TO WHAT GOD IS SHOWING THEM, rather than a time for you or anyone in the group to “teach” them something.]

1. ***What do we learn about God from this passage?** (God wants us pursue Him and others)
2. ***What do we learn about man/us from this passage?**
3. **Did God pursue Saul? Who is someone in your life that pursued you? What did you learn from this relationship?**
4. **Has anyone ever loved you the way God loved Paul?**
5. ***What is God leading you to do?** Sum up your “take-away” in a word or short sentence.
6. ***Who will you tell this week what God has shown you in His Word today?**

ASSIGN NEXT WEEK’S PASSAGE John 15:1-17 [Tell everyone the passage reference for next week and to read it several times during their week. Ask if anyone would volunteer to tell the story next week.]

PRAYER REQUESTS [Encourage the group to keep it personal and brief, allowing others time to share their praises and requests. Explain that they are invited to share if God has put something on their heart, but they don’t have to have something to share every week.]

HUDDLE [As members are leaving gather your team and...

1) identify which couples/individual members were absent. Decide and assign someone to contact them that afternoon...

2) identify your guests and assign someone to contact them that afternoon to thank them and invite them back...

3) did someone share a situation or need during small group that needs encouragement? Ask them if it’s ok if a member can call them maybe have coffee during the week to just pray with them and encourage them. Ask someone to contact them during the week.]

Connection Group (Small Group)

Week 6 Connect – God Created Relationships so We Build Relationships

John 15:1-17



WELCOME

[Greet everyone in your group, make sure new believers and guests feel valued & welcomed. Co-facilitator do the same.]

OPENING PRAYER

PURPOSE/VISION CASTING *[Remind everyone our purpose is to grow in our relationship with God and each other; to glorify God and pursue people (multiply our group to reach more), and help each other think and live like Christ with the people around us – family, friends, neighbors, co-workers.]*

REVIEW GROUP GROUND RULES *[How we practice loving and respecting each other. Review these each week for the first several weeks, and when you have new people; ask group members to name them off.]*

PREPARING OUR HEARTS *[Remind everyone that someone will tell the story as our Bibles are closed; ask everyone to stay personally engaged with what God is saying; we're not discussing "what the passage means" but "what is God saying" to each of us; encourage everyone to share as God leads them – we share our hearts out of obedience to the Holy Spirit, not to please someone else]*

TODAY'S STORY/SETTING THE SCENE *[Introduce the passage reference, Bibles closed for now; provide the context by sharing what happens in the selected passage(s).]*

John 15:1-17 At this point Jesus has spent a considerable amount of time with His disciples teaching and ministering them; Jesus has literally been making disciples. It is the time of the triumphal entry, Jesus predict His death, the Last Supper is taken, He washes the feet of the disciples, and promises the Holy Spirit. Relationships are built and the greatest command of all given.

TELL THE STORY *[Ask someone ahead of time to tell the story: ie. your co-facilitator. If you have new people, explain this intentional process (Story it, Rebuild it, Read it).]*

The Vine and the Branch

REBUILD THE STORY *[With their Bibles open, the group rebuilds the story based on what they remember. Let participants know as we share, we are not giving commentary or teaching the group what we know. Ask, "If someone is comfortable, please read the passage.]"*

READ THE STORY ALOUD *[Let the group observe if anything was left out or added to the story.]*

John 15:1-17 *I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.*

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I

have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.

DEBRIEF/DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS [Questions marked * are the key questions that should be discussed. Other questions are optional **if time allows**. Keep in mind that these questions are for the purpose of BUILDING CURIOSITY AS TO WHAT GOD IS SHOWING THEM, rather than a time for you or anyone in the group to “teach” them something.]

1. ***What do we learn about God from this passage?** (God wants us to connect with Him on a personal level)
2. ***What do we learn about man/us from this passage?**
3. **What is the relationship between the vine and the branch?**
4. **What does it mean to bear fruit?**
5. ***What is God leading you to do?** Sum up your “take-away” in a word or short sentence.
6. ***Who will you tell this week what God has shown you in His Word today?**

ASSIGN NEXT WEEK'S PASSAGE This concludes the six week study on LABC Core Values. [Tell everyone the passage reference for next week and to read it several times during their week. Ask if anyone would volunteer to tell the story next week.]

PRAYER REQUESTS [Encourage the group to keep it personal and brief, allowing others time to share their praises and requests. Explain that they are invited to share if God has put something on their heart, but they don't have to have something to share every week.]

HUDDLE [As members are leaving gather your team and...]

1) identify which couples/individual members were absent. Decide and assign someone to contact them that afternoon...

2) identify your guests and assign someone to contact them that afternoon to thank them and invite them back...

3) did someone share a situation or need during small group that needs encouragement? Ask them if it's ok if a member can call them maybe have coffee during the week to just pray with them and encourage them. Ask someone to contact them during the week.]

