

THE 2:7 SERIES



LEADER'S GUIDE COURSE 5

The Navigators is an international Christian organization. Jesus Christ gave His followers the Great Commission to go and make disciples (Matthew 28:19). The aim of The Navigators is to help fulfill that commission by multiplying laborers for Christ in every nation.

NavPress is the publishing ministry of The Navigators. NavPress publications are tools to help Christians grow. Although publications alone cannot make disciples or change lives, they can help believers learn biblical discipleship, and apply what they learn to their lives and ministries.

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LEADER'S GUIDE -- COURSES 3-5

The Ministering Disciple

Preface

Overall Perspective

Growing Strong in God's Family (Unit I), and *The Growing Disciple, Courses 1 and 2* (Unit II), have proven to be effective in introducing discipleship and helping participants become established in basic Christian disciplines. After completing these two units, many will be eager to move on to personal ministry. However, if people are not yet ready to disciple others, it would be helpful to direct them at this point to another study or fellowship group. You need to be sensitive to provide them with a healthy alternative.

The Ministering Disciple, Unit 3 (Courses 3-5), places an emphasis on learning ministry skills that will equip students to disciple others and lead evangelistic Bible studies, as well as learning another level of personal Bible study. Question-and-answer studies will be replaced by a chapter analysis method in Courses 4 and 5. Because of the additional commitment involved in this unit, it should be noted that usually only 10-15% of a congregation participate and benefit from being involved in Unit 3.

In Units 1 and 2, there was a uniform set of standards and everyone in the group moved together toward the same requirements. Unit 3 allows for individual goals in Scripture Memory and Quiet Time. The desire is that when people complete all 3 units they will be able to practice the basics without the formalized structure of the 2:7 Series. Our purpose is to help the individual become a healthy, interdependent part of the body of Christ.

Leadership Role

The leader's responsibility is to communicate a heart for God and a heart for people. Your objective as a leader is not to get people through the course. It is to equip them in their confidence and ability to minister to others. If those in your group feel you are trying to get them through a program rather than meeting their needs, you do them a disservice in training them to disciple others. Discipleship is a process and just because we have completed a number of courses doesn't necessarily equip us for ministering effectively to others.

Think in terms of more than eleven weeks to complete each of the courses if necessary. When students are learning something new, they may need an extra session to grasp the concept or finish the work that has been presented to them. Think in terms of accomplishing the **mission of making disciples** rather than having them complete exercises within a certain time period. Completing the course is not the goal. Becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ is.

It's critical that you as a leader have a clear vision of where you are taking those in your group. Your goal is to equip ministering disciples. There is a continual need to emphasize Christian character, that a disciple is growing deeper in his/her relationship to Christ. The danger is in

making assumptions about the maturity, knowledge, marital harmony, and ministry skills of the students.

In Units I and II, the leader functions primarily as a facilitator. In the *Ministering Disciple*, Unit III, the leader needs to be a pace-setter as well. He/she needs to be doing what is being taught. Where you have failed in an attempt to serve God, share that, so you will not be hypocritical. In the last three courses you must *lead*. If you expect to see your people become involved in evangelism and reaching out to minister to others, you must be the example.

The emphasis in ministering to others in Unit III is as follows:

- Course 3 - Learning to lead question-and-answer Bible studies
- Course 4 - Learning follow-up doing chapter analysis Bible studies
- Course 5 - Role-playing evangelistic Bible Studies and learning to lead a Chapter Analysis Bible study

Important Suggestions

1. Leader's Guide

The leader's guide is filled with proven principles, methods and suggestions. Using it weekly will greatly benefit the leader's preparation as well as his/her ability to facilitate each lesson.

2. Leader Training Seminars

Leader Seminar Part II qualified you to lead Courses 3-5. If someone in your group wants to lead a 2:7 in the future, they should attend a Part I training seminar.

Information concerning the seminars can be obtained from your local Navigator representative or by contacting the Church Discipleship Ministries, The Navigators, P.O. Box 6000, Colorado Springs, CO 80934. Telephone: (719) 598-1212

The Challenge Continues...

Your Goals as a Group Leader

As the leader of your group, you have 3 primary goals:

1. To help each person become a more mature follower of Jesus Christ.
2. To equip each person with the vision, tools, and know-how for winning people to Christ and training others in discipleship.
3. To pray each person will become a laborer in God's harvest field, Matthew 9:38.

To reach these goals, you and your group will want to be consciously growing in your relationship with God and others.

Evaluating Your Progress

Continue to evaluate your leadership on the basis of the following questions. You'll want to do this at least one time, preferably at the midpoint in each of the courses.

- Who? Who am I serving?
- What? What am I learning about the members of my group?
What needs and expectations do my group members have?
- Where? Where am I in my own Christian life and ministry?
Where am I leading this group?
- Why? Why am I leading this group?
Why is each person in my group?
- When? When will I spend time socially with members of my group?
- How? How much am I praying for those in my group?
How can I (we) best discern and meet their needs?

PRAYER for and with your group is essential for growth and effective ministry to take place. Dependence on the HOLY SPIRIT will help you be sensitive and alert to where your people are in their walk with Christ. Listen carefully - beyond their words. Look for clues that reveal unexpressed needs, roadblocks, or issues with which they may be struggling.

The Process

1. Break into verse review groups.

Work on getting everything signed off on their Completion Records.

2. Share from your Bible Reading Highlights Record.

Keep this brief. Perhaps half of the group could share something from a quiet time.

3. Share any opportunities in evangelism this week.

4. Discuss your progress with your one-to-one discipling.

5. Discuss “A Parable: Saving Lives” (pages 98-99).

Some people may react to this story. Keep in mind that the purpose of the parable was to take an extreme position to get a point across. It is not intended to in any way be anti-church or negative about the church. There are many churches that are having a tremendous impact in evangelism.

6. Discuss “Ministering in Small Groups and Triads” (pages 99-100).

This is excellent resource material to which they can refer for months to come. Ask them what impressed them in the section “Using Small Groups.” After you have discussed that section go on to “Using Triads” and ask the same question.

7. Share lessons learned during Course 4.

Whatever specific things people in your group share, they will fall into two major categories: what has happened in their own individual lives, and what has happened in ministering to others. You may want to ask about specific subject areas such as Bible study, Scripture memory, activities with non-Christians, discipling and evangelism.

8. Briefly discuss “Keep on Growing and Ministering” (page 102).

9. Pray.

It would be appropriate to focus this time on giving thanks to God for all that He has done over the past 11 weeks. Some may wish to pray in anticipation of Course 5.

Leader's Guide Course 5

	Scripture Memory	Quiet Time	Bible Study	Evangelism	Bible Study Leading	Other
Session 1	Scripture Memory Instructions			How to Use IBS Studies		Review Course 4 Preview Course 5
Session 2	I Cor. 3:16 I Cor. 2:12 OYO	Share from "Bible Reading Highlights Record"	Book Survey of Philippians	Leading the IBS Meetings		
Session 3	Isaiah 41:10 Philp. 4:13 OYO		"Who is Christ"	Planning for the IBS from "Living Proof"		Resources for Leading an IBS
Session 4	Lament. 3:22-23 Numbers 23:19 OYO		Philippians 1:1-29	Evangelistic Opportunities	How to Lead STS Bible Studies	"A Rabbit on the Swim Team"
Session 5	Isaiah 26:3 I Peter 5:7 OYO			Activities Record		Introduction to Spiritual Gifts
Session 6	Romans 8:32 OYO Quiz		Philippians 2:1-30			
Session 7	Philippians 4:19 OYO					Extended Prayer Time Together
Session 8	Hebrews 2:18 OYO		Philippians 3:1-21		Role-play IBS Study	Review Extended Prayer Time Schedule
Session 9	Psalms 119:9, 11 OYO			Activities Record		"Need of the Hour"
Session 10	Review Quiz		Philippians 4:1-23			
Session 11	Review		Summary of Philippians		Role-play IBS Study	Evaluating Your Experiences in <i>The 2:7 Series</i>

Guidelines for Course 5

You and your group are nearing the end of Unit 3, *The Ministering Disciple*. Course 5 will continue to strengthen ministry skills learned in Courses 3 and 4 as well as introduce material on evangelistic Bible studies, spiritual gifts, and how to lead the “Search the Scriptures” Bible study. During Course 5 you will also want your people to continue to deepen their walk with God.

One of the most challenging ideas presented in THE 2:7 SERIES is to participate in an investigative Bible study after the completion of Course 5. Your group will learn how to organize and conduct an IBS, but the real test of FAITH will come after the completion of THE 2:7 SERIES. Your purpose as a leader is to help the people in your group finish this course with the expectation that they will put into practice what they have learned the past two years.

Goals for Course 5

1. To continue to experience consistent and meaningful quiet times.
2. To maintain the ability to quote the verses memorized in Courses 1-4.
3. To memorize either twelve Scripture passages on “Rely on God’s Resources” or twelve passages personally selected.
4. To learn how to organize and lead effective investigative Bible studies.
5. To nurture an appreciation for individual differences within the Body of Christ.
6. To strengthen Bible study skills while studying Philippians.
7. To experience an extended prayer time together.
8. To appreciate the lessons learned during THE 2:7 SERIES.

Preparing to Lead Course 5

This is the final course in THE 2:7 SERIES. By the time Course 5 has been completed, attitudes should be more Christ-like and skills related to ministry significantly sharpened. The students will have learned important lessons as they have shared concepts and tools with others as part of their one-to-one discipling requirement. Course 5 helps you bring to completion some of the ministry training begun in Courses 3 and 4.

The focus now is on developing a lifestyle of discipleship. It is not something that is completed in Course 5, but continues throughout life. Standards for the quiet time, scripture memory and witnessing are set by the students. Instead of standards being imposed by the completion record, the students will begin prayerfully setting their own standards for Christian disciplines they believe Christ would have them practice.

After helping one another with insights into spiritual gifts in Session 5, your people will need to be challenged to think about how they will use their gifts as well as what they have learned in the 2:7 Series in ministering to others. You may wish to invite one of the church staff to talk to your group to ask about their interests, and to present opportunities to serve Christ in the church. People will need consistent encouragement to think of passing on to others what they have learned. Your example and enthusiasm in ministering to others is a critical element in their motivation and success.

One of the greatest contributions you can make in the lives of the students is your consistent prayer for them. Good materials and effective leading and teaching techniques are important, but ultimately the Holy Spirit must do the lasting work in the heart and life of a person. Encourage members of your group to pray for one another and be ready listeners and helpers when someone in the group needs it.

Here are some ideas to keep in mind as you lead the fifth and final course in THE 2:7 SERIES:

1. Are you avoiding the trap of letting your preparation and study time replace your quiet time? Your preparation is important, but be careful to maintain your own walk with the Lord.
2. Your own fresh and positive attitude about the disciplines of this course can be a strong influence on the people in your group. It would probably be helpful to talk with your group about the difference between practicing disciplines as a means to knowing God and as a response to His grace, as opposed to practicing these disciplines as a means to winning favor with God which is legalism. It might be helpful to encourage members of the group to read the booklet, *GODLINESS THROUGH DISCIPLINE*, by Jay Adams, or the small classic, *PRINCIPLES OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH*, by Miles Stanford, or Richard Foster's book, *DISCIPLINES OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE*.
3. The work you do on the IBS studies will be one of the most beneficial things you can do with your group.
4. Leading a chapter analysis study will be a new and challenging experience for the students. Encourage them in this endeavor. Remind them that the study of God's Word is more than an academic exercise. The STS format is a specific approach for getting at the truth of a passage. The Holy Spirit can then use those truths to make a personal and practical impact on the person doing the study.

Graduation Plans

Completing THE 2:7 SERIES has been a major accomplishment. Throughout the course you need to commend your students for their faithfulness.

It would be valuable to your students and motivational to other students still going through the series to plan an activity to commemorate your group's successful graduation from Course 5. Be creative and enthusiastic. Your students have earned it.

Possible graduation activities:

1. Graduation banquet
2. Special church service.
3. Graduation gift of a book or plaque.

Church Discipleship Ministries will send to each of your students: 1) a certificate of completion honoring the student's persistence in finishing THE 2:7 SERIES, and 2) a letter of recognition from The Navigators, commending the student's hard work and commitment to spiritual growth.

Please fill out the form at the end of this book and mail to Church Discipleship Ministries as soon as you determine who will be graduating. Plan to send the names no later than midway through the course so you'll have the certificates in adequate time before graduation. The Navigators will prepare and mail the certificates. The address: Church Discipleship Ministries, P.O. Box 6000, Colorado Springs, CO 80934.

Session 1

Goals for Session 1

1. To make sure the group participants know what is expected of them during and following Course 5.
2. To prepare for conducting an Investigative Bible Study after finishing Course 5 (first of three sessions).

The Process

1. Discuss “Review the Goals of Course 4” (page 7).

Quickly review the eleven goals of Course 4. Make this a time of affirmation and praise. The students have worked hard during the past course. Recognize them for their diligence.

You might want to reflect on the principles found in II Timothy 2:1,2. It is by drawing on the grace of God that people are able to multiply their lives. Talk with your group about being reliable people and then remind them of the privilege to pass on to others what they have learned the past couple years. You might consider looking up I Corinthians 4:17 and Hebrews 13:7. We are to pass on a way of life which is in Christ. People are to imitate our faith, not our mannerisms or personalities.

2. Preview Course 5

Look at the “Completion Record” (pages 5,6). Then present the goals of Course 5 on the previous page of this Leader’s Guide. One suggestion would be to spend some time praying about the value of these goals and then present your convictions to your group. If you are enthusiastic, your group will pick up the positive anticipation you have about this last course in THE 2:7 SERIES.

During this course the students have the option of either memorizing the last twelve TMS passages, “Rely on God’s Resources,” or they may choose twelve passages of their own. If they choose to do on-your-own (OYO) Scripture memory, they will enter the reference for those verses on the COMPLETION RECORD. It really doesn’t matter whether they do TMS or OYO Scripture memory during this course. It is their choice. In Sessions 6 and 10 they will take a quiz on subtopics, references, and the first two words for TMS verses.

During Course 5, the inductive Bible study will be done on Philippians. You want everyone to lead at least one of the Bible study discussions on Philippians. If your group is fairly large, you may need to divide into two groups for Bible study or assign two people to lead half of the study each week.

The extended time of prayer together in Session 7 will be different from the ones observed in Courses 1 and 3. You will be together during the entire time and this will be a special time with God as a group.

3. Survey the “Scripture Memory Instructions - Week One” (pages 8,9).

If your people carefully continue to follow the Scripture memory review patterns, they will have a firm grasp on all the verses they have memorized during the five courses of THE 2:7 SERIES. Encourage them to be faithful.

4. Discuss “How to Use Investigative Bible Studies” (pages 9-13).

This material on leading Investigative Bible Studies (IBS's) is very valuable. It has been proven again and again that one of the best ways to help a person come to know Christ is to get him involved in actually studying the Bible firsthand. It is one of the most natural and non-intimidating ways to engage a non-believer in a discussion about the gospel.

If you have had success in leading an IBS, you can share your own personal experience with your group. They will catch your excitement as you share how God worked in the lives of the people in your IBS.

During Course 5 your group will prepare to function as a team in leading unbelievers in a study of God's Word.

a. A tool for the times in which we live.

Ask people to share what stood out to them in this section. During the discussion, underscore one or two things that you thought were important.

You could greatly benefit from reading a copy of LIVING PROOF. This book provides additional motivation and insight into evangelizing people in our present culture.

b. Looking into the life of Christ.

Discuss the following question found in the material. How might some of your non-Christian friends or acquaintances answer Jesus' question, "Who do you say I am?"

Have them turn to the copies of the Investigative Bible Studies in the back of Course 5. Let them know that they are free to photocopy as many of these pages as they wish. More material for this investigative study can be found beginning on page 77 of this manual.

c. Recruiting guidelines for an IBS.

1. Selecting people to recruit.

Ask them what other sources they can think of where people could be recruited for an investigative Bible study. There is space provided where they may jot down the presented.

2. Other recruiting factors.

Ask for their comments and questions about this section.

3. Making the invitation.

Ask for their comments and questions about this section.

You might also suggest they could develop an invitation on a 5 x 7 sheet of paper.

These invitations should be given to the people personally. You should let the people know you will be getting back to them within the week.

d. IBS meeting responsibilities.

Refer back to this material when establishing an IBS and setting up an IBS team.

e. After each study.

Discuss their comments and questions about this section.

5. Read Assignment for Session 2 (page 13).

Have someone read the assignment for Session 2. Assign the Bible leading responsibilities at this time. There are six Bible study discussions in this course: the book survey, four chapters of

Philippians, and the book summary. The instructions for leading chapter studies are located on pages 30-31.

Next week you will be doing a book survey. The group can review the material in Course 4, page 18 and then prepare a survey on Philippians. You can assign someone to lead this discussion, or you may choose to lead it yourself.

6. Pray.

You perhaps have a sense of the needs of your group. Close in prayer remembering some of these needs or have several in the group bring needs before the Lord.

Session 2

Goals for Session 2

1. To review material in Session 1 on IBS
2. To learn how to lead the IBS sessions
3. To complete a book survey for Philippians

The Process

1. Break into verse review groups.

Review 1 Corinthians 3:16 and 1 Corinthians 2:12, or the two passages they have selected.

Encourage your people to stay current on Scripture memory. This is particularly important for Sessions 2-5 when they must memorize two passages each week. Be praying that God will use the memorized verses in their lives in a practical way.

2. Share from your Bible Reading Highlights Record.

Ask God to make your heart like the servant of Jehovah in Isaiah 50:4. Allow God to awaken you morning by morning to learn from Him, so you can sustain with a word the person who is weary. Be ready to share what God is teaching you.

3. Report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.

Briefly share together any experiences of helping someone move one step closer in the process of coming to Jesus Christ.

4. Share progress you have made with people listed on your Activities Record.

The Activities Record is really a measure of our faithfulness in developing a friendship with someone. Developing these close friendships with people is the key to being able to have a lasting spiritual influence in their lives. Activities are ways to allow the friendship to grow.

5. Discuss the materials on leading the IBS meetings (pages 15-18).

- a. How to lead the first meeting.

Discuss their comments and questions about this section. If you have the Living Proof Video available to you, this would be a good time to watch session 9 together with your group.

- b. How to lead the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th IBS meetings (pages 16, 17).
This is resource material. Encourage your people to refer back to these guidelines when they begin an IBS.
Have items 3-5 read aloud by people in your group and briefly discuss them.
- c. Leading the Last IBS Meeting.
Let the group discuss what they see as important in this section. Emphasize the importance of setting appointments with the non-Christians following the 4th meeting. This will be the most severe test of your group's faith in God's work in the lives of unbelievers. God has prepared you well for this encounter, and He will work with you through this crucial step.

6. Read the information on “Bible Study in Course 5” (page 18).

7. Discuss “A Book Survey of Philippians” (pages 19-20).

8. Discuss plans for “Extended Prayer Together” for Session 7.

What needs to be covered in this session are practical ideas of when and where the special session on prayer will take place. You may want to ask the group if they know of a good place to spend 3-4 hours in prayer together.

9. Read “Assignment for Session 3” (page 21).

One of your goals is to give your people as much experience in leading as possible. If there are only four or five in your group, they will each have the opportunity to lead a whole study at least once during this course. If you have more than seven in your group, you need to adjust the schedule so everyone gets experience in leading. One of the best ways to do this is to assign two Bible study leaders for each study. They will each prepare and lead half of the study. A large group can be divided into two groups that meet in different rooms, each with a different leader.

After each Bible study discussion, you will want to critique each leader. Focus on what was done right more than what was done wrong. Compliment them on two or three things they did well, and then share one suggestion for improvement in the future.

10. Pray

You may want to focus your conversational prayer time around the general theme of evangelism, friendships you are developing, people who seem close to the kingdom, future IBS's among your neighbors and friends, etc.

Session 3

Goals for Session 3

1. Complete discussion of instructions for IBS
2. Role-play study, “Who is Jesus Christ?”

The Process

1. Break into verse review groups.

They should review Isaiah 41:10 and Philippians 4:13, or the two passages they have selected. Encourage them to persevere to the end on Scripture memory. They are at the most crucial time in trying to finish well. In Session 6 they will drop down to memorizing one passage per week. Some students are learning a total of six verses, due to the difficulty of memorizing . It's important to be positive with each one regardless of how much they are doing.

2. Share from your Bible Reading Highlights Record.

Remind them to continue to respond back to God in prayer during their quiet times. Be sure you continue to do this for your own benefit and to set the example.

3. Report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week

After each experience is shared, stop and pray for the people involved.

4. Discuss the materials on Investigative Bible Study (pages 23-25).

First, discuss the material they have studied to be sure there is clear understanding about what was presented. Then, get into specifics about who would feel comfortable leading an IBS. How many of them have one or two people who might be interested in investigating what the Bible has to say? Who do the group members think would be able to handle leading an IBS if it were a larger group? Who would like to be host/hostess for an IBS? This is a time for people to think through the way(s) in which they will participate in an IBS after Course 5. This is a time to talk through some options.

Establishing your IBS team (page 24).

Ask the people in your group, "With which of the first three roles do you think you would feel most comfortable?"

5. Discuss “Resources for Leading Investigative Bible Study” (page 26).

Many Christians are fearful when they think of talking to unbelievers about Jesus Christ. What you want to accomplish in this exercise is to focus people's attention on the power of the Word of God and the faithful work of the Holy Spirit to draw people to Jesus Christ. Have people share about when they have experienced the power of the Scriptures in their lives. Ask a few to tell how the Holy Spirit was at work in their lives before they came to Christ.

6. Discuss Investigative Bible Study #1, “Who is Jesus Christ?” (page 27).

The best preparation for discussing “Who is Jesus Christ” is to do the study yourself first. After studying John 1:1-34 and answering the questions on the work sheet, turn to the resource section in the back of this Leaders' Guide. Use the “Suggestions for leading Discussions in the Gospel of John” to prepare to lead the discussion.

It may be a bit awkward, but try to role-play the study as if those in your group are non-Christians. The purpose is to simulate an evangelistic study as much as possible.

If you have never experienced leading such a group, you might seek help from someone experienced in leading evangelistic studies. Bob and Betty Jack's book, YOUR HOME A LIGHTHOUSE, NavPress, is a resource from a couple who have led this type of study for many years.

7. Read the “Assignment for Session 4” (page 28).

See if the group has any questions concerning leading the “Search The Scriptures” Study.

8. Close in prayer.

You might like to focus on prayer concerning unbelievers who would be interested in an evangelistic study. Your group will discuss or role-play an investigative Bible study in Sessions 8 and 11. You want them to consider this opportunity of outreach after they complete Course 5.

Session 4

Goals for Session 4

1. To provide experience for one or two of the students to lead a Search the Scriptures study of Philippians 1.
2. To heighten awareness of the unique variety and giftedness in the body of Christ.

The Process

1. Break into verse review groups.

Have the students review Lamentations 3:22-23 and Numbers 23:19, or the two passages they have selected. You may assign those in your group to research the context of the memory verses, and share their findings with the group. Also, you might draw them out on how any of the verses have been meaningful to them, either personally or with others.

2. Share from your Bible Reading Highlights Record.

If someone in your group has not shared something for awhile, you might ask them before the meeting what God has been speaking to them about. Then encourage them to share that insight with the group tonight.

3. Report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.

4. Discuss “A Rabbit on the Swim Team” (page 30).

This is a fun discussion. It doesn't take long, but is important for communicating that we each have a different blend of gifts and abilities. God uses each of us uniquely. Affirm the different gifts and abilities within your group. If you use the Serendipity materials from Littleton, Colorado, you might find some helpful exercises to further illustrate this theme.

5. Discuss “How to Lead Search the Scriptures Bible Studies” (pages 30-31).

Study this section yourself carefully and be ready to answer the questions people in your group will have. In addition to these specific suggestion for leading the STS Bible studies, study the general principles below. (You may want to photocopy this material for your group.) Use your discretion as to whether or not to use the following material. You may prefer to move immediately into the Bible study discussion, or provide the following additional information before you start.

Point out to your group that many of the principles they have learned in leading the “Question and Answer” Bible studies will apply to leading the STS Bible study discussions. They will continue to:

- Launch** - Open the discussion of each section;
- Guide** - Direct the discussion through each section;
- Transition** - Move the discussion from one section to the next.

Launching the Discussion

One method of launching the discussion would be to ask students to share what they have prepared in each section of the study. You would say: “Would someone share their passage description?” After having several share their passage descriptions and discussing them, you would say: “Would somebody read one of your observations from the verse-by-verse meditation section?” You would continue this procedure for the entire study.

A second method would give the students more opportunity for spontaneity. You could ask them to look over their study and answer one of the following launching questions. You would say:

“From your study what...
did you discover...
did you learn...
did you observe...
impressed you...
from the study of Philippians 1:1:29?”

A third way of launching the discussion is to ask a discovery question that leads directly into the passage being discussed. For instance, you might ask about I Thessalonians 1:1-10: “What qualities did Paul observe in the people that made him give thanks to God?” This could be followed up by asking understanding questions about faith, hope and love. An example could be, “What is the difference between ‘work of faith’ and ‘labor of love?’” Or, “How do you think Paul recognized the quality of hope in the lives of believers there?” After discussing this paragraph go to the next major idea in the text and ask, “How did Paul recognize that God had chosen them?” Then follow this up with understanding questions and guiding the discussion.

This type of discussion is sometime helpful to make people aware of the flow of ideas in the passage. Be careful not to use this method too often because it does not recognize the work people have done.

Try to vary your approach to leading the discussion.

Guiding the Discussion

The first method of launching the discussion will lead to a more leader-controlled discussion. You will be deciding the order in which to discuss the various areas of the work sheet.

The second method of launching the discussion will tend toward more group control of the discussion. You will be allowing individuals in the group to select whatever area of the work

sheet they want to discuss. Your job in this type of discussion is to keep the discussion on track and moving.

Using the third method will require more time to prepare understanding questions and will also allow the leader more control of the direction of the discussion.

Transitioning to the next Session

When you sense that people have finished sharing what is important to them in any area of study, move on. Don't let the discussion drag out until every idea has been exhausted and so are the people.

6. Discuss the Bible study for Philippians 1:1-29.

Encourage your group members to start early each week on their Bible study preparation. Assignments become an unpleasant pressure if they are done at the last minute. They can be a delight if they are not rushed. Set the pace by starting early and savoring your time in Bible study.

Be sure to affirm the leader or leaders. You may want to take a few minutes for evaluation. You may want to draw them out on what they are learning from this type of study.

7. Read the "Assignment for Session 5" (page 36).

Go over instructions for the spiritual gifts exercise to anticipate any questions they might have. If you have worked through this carefully yourself, you'll be better prepared to answer questions and give direction. If the subject of spiritual gifts is an area where you would like more input, seek out resources from your church leadership. Look ahead to Session 5 of the Leader's Guide for more suggestions.

8. Pray.

Session 5

Goal for Session 5

1. To guide students in discovering what their spiritual gift(s) might be.

The Process

1. Break into verse review groups.

Have the group review Isaiah 26:3 and I Peter 5:7, or the two passages they have selected. This is the last of four pairs of Scripture passages they have been assigned to memorize. When you are all back together, you might ask how many in your group have all eight signed off. Commend them for their diligence.

2. Share quiet time thoughts from your Highlights Record.

If group members seem to take excessive time in sharing about their quiet times, you may ask them to read directly from their Highlights Record rather than to give an ad-lib presentation.

3. Report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.

Briefly share together any experiences of helping someone move one step closer in the process of evangelism.

4. Share progress you have made with the people listed on your Activities Record.

You want to share during this time as well. You don't have to be the best and most successful person in outreach when compared with others in your group, but you need to be reaching out to non-Christians. It will be exciting to hear the reports your people give in your group!

5. Discuss “An Introduction to Spiritual Gifts” (pages 38-43).

The subject of spiritual gifts has often been an area of controversy and confusion in the Body of Christ. The intention of this material is to introduce your people to the subject of spiritual gifts. It is important that this discussion reflects the view that your church has about gifts. You could even schedule a session when one of your church's pastoral staff could spend one or two hours with your group giving further insight into this subject.

The information on spiritual gifts presented in this course is designed to be preparatory to further study and teaching on this subject. Use whatever resources are available in your church.

6. Read the “Assignment for Session 6” (page 43).

7. Pray

You might pray here regarding use of gifts - taking initiative, serving others, not comparing or competing with others, etc.

Session 6

Goals for Session 6

1. To sharpen their grasp of The Topical Memory System subtopics and verse references.
2. To prepare for an extended prayer time together.
3. To continue to learn skills in both leading and preparing STS studies.

The Process

1. Break into verse review groups.

Have the group review Romans 8:32 or a passage they have selected.

For Sessions 6-9 there will be one passage of Scripture to memorize each week. Encourage your people to keep their previous Scripture memory passages sharp by reviewing them exactly as “Your Weekly Plan” indicates. If they follow the guidelines, they will avoid many frustrations.

2. Share quiet time thoughts from your Highlights Record.

Continue to reinforce the idea that quiet times don't need to be long but that they should not be hurried. A quiet time may be only ten minutes long and still be vital. Trying to cover too much material can make a quiet time seem rushed.

3. Report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.

Briefly share together any experiences of helping someone move one step closer in the process of coming to know Christ. Have they shared the Bridge Illustration or their testimony recently? This is a requirement for graduation.

4. Discuss extended prayer together and plan for the next session (pages 45, 46).

Briefly discuss their questions and comments about this section.

Next week they will be using these principles and guidelines during the extended prayer time.

5. Take the quiz on the topics, references, and the first two words for the first forty-eight passages of The Topical Memory System (pages 47-50).

This is the first of two quizzes for the subtopics, references, and first two words for The Topical Memory System. In this quiz, the students write down this information for the first forty-eight passages in The Topical Memory System. In Session 10 they will take a quiz for the first forty-eight passages if they are doing OYO Scripture memory. If they are completing the verses in The Topical Memory System, in Session 10 they will take the quiz on all sixty passages.

Taking the quizzes deepens their recall on the subtopics and first two words of each passage. These quizzes are very helpful tools for sharpening their Scripture memory work.

After they have taken the quiz, have them exchange and grade papers. Sometime during this course they need to get 100% on the first forty-eight passages in The Topical Memory System. If they don't get 100% on this quiz, they may take the quiz with another classmate between sessions in order to meet this requirement. They may wait until the quiz in Session 10 to fulfill this requirement if they wish.

6. Discuss the Bible study for Philippians 2:1-30 (pages 51-54).

Continue to be a participant in these discussions as members of your group lead. Critique each of the leaders at the end of the Bible study discussion. Point out two or three things they did well and make one suggestion for improvement.

7. Read the “Assignment for Session 7” (page 55).

Have someone read the assignment for Session 7.

Ask how many are up-to-date in their Scripture memory work. It is important for them to get current in this memory work if they are a little behind at this point.

Each week check to see who is leading the next Bible study discussion. If an assigned group leader must miss the session for some reason, it is his or her responsibility to get a replacement. Keep yourself free from this responsibility.

Ensure that everyone is informed concerning time, place and plans for the extended prayer time together.

8. Pray.

Have a brief time of conversational prayer. Perhaps focus the prayer time on a few key thoughts from the Bible study on Philippians 2:1-30. Some may wish to pray briefly for people to whom they are ministering.

Session 7

Goal for Session 7

1. To participate in an extended prayer time together.

Preparation

As the leader, you will need to carefully prepare for this extended time together. It would be helpful to write notes for the time and plan the time frame for using A-C-T-S. A sample extended prayer time schedule is on page 71.

In previous extended prayer times it was important to have a facility where individuals could have their own room for meeting alone with God. In this extended prayer time together, it is important to have a room that is comfortable for your whole group. You can meet in a home or a room in the church, whichever is best suited for your group. If you do meet in a church, it would be helpful to have someone responsible for the temperature, seating, and lighting in the room.

Depending on when you meet, you might like to have light refreshments available. Also, if your group enjoys music, you can work that into the prayer time. It's helpful to allow people to pray in whatever position they would like. This could be one of the most meaningful times of prayer in which your group has participated.

Ask God to give you a spirit of expectancy, and pray that the Holy Spirit would guide throughout the hours you are together.

If Your Group Meets Together with other Groups for Prayer

Some churches like to have several 2:7 groups meet together for this extended prayer time. If you do this, the 2:7 leaders need to coordinate what each of you will do during the prayer time together. If several 2:7 groups are meeting together, you will need a facility with a large enough room and perhaps one with a piano. If a guitar is used to accompany the singing, or you sing without accompaniment, you have more options as to where you can meet. As mentioned previously, someone needs to be responsible for the sound system, the temperature, and the lighting. Seating should be circular or fan-shaped. People need the freedom to stand up, sit down, and walk around during this time. Let them know they have this choice. Be sure that parents do not bring younger children to this prayer time.

The Process

1. Break into verse review groups.

Have the students review Philippians 4:19 or a passage they have selected. This time needs to be kept short so the extended prayer time can be started promptly.

2. Spend an extended prayer time together (3 hours and 40 minutes).

Use "A Guide for Extended Prayer Together" (pages 57-69). You as a leader need to keep an eye on the clock to spend adequate time on each of the sections. It is so easy to go longer than the allotted time.

3. Share together how the time in prayer has been meaningful to you (twenty minutes).

There is personal benefit for individuals who share their own observations and comments. It deepens the impact on their own lives as they share. Those who listen are strengthened and encouraged as well.

4. Read assignment for Session 8.

Dismiss them on time.

Session 8

Goals for Session 8

1. To study Philippians 3:1-21 and emphasize application of Scripture to our lives.
2. To discuss or role-play the IBS study, “Why Did Jesus Come?” (John 3).

The Process

1. Break into verse review groups.

Have the students review Hebrews 2:18 or a passage they have selected. When they come back from the review groups, ask how many of them have all of the memory work signed off up through this meeting. It takes a great deal of the pressure off if they can stay current on the new memory work and continue to maintain the verses they learned earlier in the course. They have only one more verse to learn.

2. Share quiet time thoughts from your Highlights Record.

3. Briefly review “Extended Prayer Time Schedule” (page 71).

This schedule is for the benefit of the person leading the prayer time. It is provided for your group so that each person could conduct an extended prayer time with another group if he/she wishes to do so.

4. Discuss the Bible study for Philippians 3:1-21 (pages 73-76).

After the group meeting, point out two or three things the leader did well and make one suggestion for improvement.

5. Review past applications in your Bible studies and spend extra time praying over them.

Remind your group of the importance of application. You might read some passage together that highlights the importance of obedience, for example, II Tim. 3:16,17; Psalm 119:59,60; Deut. 32:46,47; Deut. 28, or James 1:22.

6. Discuss or role-play Investigative Bible Study, “Why Did Jesus Come?” (page 72).

The purpose of including this study is to provide more experience and exposure to leading an evangelistic Bible study. You can use the resources in the back of the Leader’s Guide. There are some good discovery and understanding questions prepared for you. You may want to prepare your own questions as well and then organize your materials for this role-play. If someone in your group is willing to be the leader, they will gain valuable experience in leading an evangelistic

Bible study. Again, your group should act as non-Christians. Take some time after the study to discuss what you are learning together.

7. Read the “Assignment for Session 9” (page 77).

8. Close in prayer.

You may want to direct the prayer toward the importance of obedience.

Session 9

Goals for Session 9

1. To deepen the conviction that THE NEED OF THE HOUR is people who will believe God and take Him at his word.
2. To raise the expectation that each person will continue to memorize God’s Word, pursue a deep walk with God, and minister to others.

The Process

1. Break into verse review groups.

Have the group review Psalm 119:9,11 or a passage they have selected.

When your group is all together, ask how many of them have not completed all their Scripture memory requirements for this course. Those who still have work to do need to finish it up by Session 10, if at all possible.

2. Share quiet time thoughts from your Highlights Record.

You might ask them which book of the Bible they have most enjoyed reading in their quiet times during recent weeks and why. Thank them for their insights and ideas.

3. Report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.

Briefly share together any experiences. Begin prompting them to think about people who would participate in an IBS.

4. Share progress you have made with people listed on your Activities Record.

This is the last scheduled time that you share in the group the more specific things you have each been doing with people who are listed on your Activities Record. Let any share what they have written down and done with one or two people on their list. Remind them that the Activities Record is to help them be faithful to their friends.

5. Discuss *The Need of the Hour* and The Need of the Hour exercise (pages 79-83).

This is a challenging article on trusting God. You may want to refer to the introduction on the top of page 79, then discuss what they wrote on page 83. Ask what impressed them as they read “The Need of the Hour.” Then discuss additional comments and questions about this material. You might share how your faith has been stretched and how important “faith” is in God’s eyes.

6. Discuss “Scripture Memory in the Future” (page 84).

Give everyone a few minutes to read the article and then discuss any comments or questions they may have.

To prepare for this discussion, go back to *Growing Strong in God’s Family* and review in Session 10 some of the reasons for memorizing Scripture. Be prepared to share why you intend to continue memorizing Scripture after finishing the 2:7 Series. Ask others to share some of their convictions about Scripture memory.

7. Discuss “Maintaining Your Life and Ministry” (pages 84-87).

Going through The 2:7 Series has been an investment for a lifetime. People in your 2:7 group have seen positive habits develop in their lives and have completed important assignments. The intention of this section is to have each person make some specific plans for the next one to three years concerning his/her walk with God and ministry to others.

You need to think through and pray about the next one to three years yourself. You want to participate with your people in this kind of thinking. You will be an encouragement and a challenge to each other as you discuss these things.

Ask if anyone has need of special resource materials that you could help them locate. Offer to help people find their place of ministry.

8. Read the “Assignment for Session 10” (page 87).

Next week the students will take a quiz on the Topical Memory System. You might encourage them to get help from another person in preparation for this time if necessary. This will be a great accomplishment for those in the group. Also, remind them to sign off as much as possible on their Completion Record.

9. Pray.

Have a brief time of conversational prayer. Some may wish to pray briefly about their walk with God and ministry in the future.

Session 10

Goals for Session 10

1. To sharpen their grasp on the subtopics, verse references, and the first two words for the first sixty (or the first forty-eight if OYO) passages in *The Topical Memory System*.
2. To study Philippians 4:1-23 and apply it to their lives.

The Process

1. Break into verse review groups.

Review all the verses memorized in Course 5 and get anything signed that they can on their Completion Record.

2. Share quiet time thoughts from your Highlights Record.

Come prepared to share something from one of your own quiet times that is fresh and uplifting. Continue to be enthusiastic about your own quiet time.

3. Report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.

Briefly share together any experiences of helping someone move one step closer in the process of evangelism. If people are not regularly sharing about their experiences in evangelism, you might discuss what is preventing them from telling others about Christ. Be prepared to comment on excuses.

4. Take the quiz on the topics, references, and the first two words for the sixty (only the first forty-eight if OYO) passages of The Topical Memory System (pages 89-93).

This is the last quiz. By the end of this session everyone should have accomplished 100% accuracy on one of the quizzes for the first forty-eight references, subtopics, and first two words under each reference. If they have not, they need to do it between classes with another member of the group. Those who have been memorizing the TMS verses on “Rely on God’s Resources” are quizzed on all sixty passages in The Topical Memory System. There may be some in the group who have learned only six verses in each of the last three courses. They would only be quizzed on verses learned.

5. Discuss the Bible study for Philippians 4:1-23.

This is the last Chapter Analysis study in the course. There are excellent principles of discipleship in this passage. Pray and ask God to use this study in the lives of each of your people - I Thessalonians 2:13.

6. Read the “Assignment for Session 11” (page 94).

Encourage them to start early in the week to prepare their comments for “Evaluating Your Experience in The 2:7 Series” (page 103). This exercise will be more meaningful to them if they work on it at several sittings rather than all at once.

Have your people review the material in course 4 on “How to do a Book Summary.” A book summary takes more time because you are trying to condense a lot of material and glean the essence of what you have learned. Also, encourage them to begin early on the book summary.

An additional IBS, “What Does Jesus Want of Us?” (John 4), page 102, has been included in this last session. This is not mentioned in the assignment since it is optional. Determine whether you want your people to do this lesson or not. The purpose for including it was to give another experience and exposure to leading an evangelistic study before completing this course.

7. Close in prayer.

Have a brief time of conversational prayer. Perhaps focus the prayer time on a few key thoughts from Philippians 4:1-23. Some may wish to pray briefly for people to whom they are ministering.

Session 11

Goals for Session 11

1. To evaluate their personal experience of being involved in *The Ministering Disciple*, Courses

3-5 in The 2:7 Series.

2. To prepare and lead a book summary of Philippians.

The Process

1. Break into verse review groups.

Get anything signed off that they can on their Completion Records.

2. Share quiet time thoughts from your Highlights Record.

This needs to be kept brief because of other material to be covered. Perhaps half of the group could share something from a quiet time.

3. Report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.

Briefly share together on the blessings and difficulties they have experienced as they have reached out to others with the gospel of Christ. Remind them that Christ said people would have varied responses toward the gospel and that our job is to keep cultivating the soil, sowing the seed, and reaping when the harvest is ready (Luke 8:4-15).

4. Discuss the book summary of Philippians.

Encourage the people to listen carefully to one another as they discuss this book summary. They may want to take notes on what others share and make some revisions on their study later. Emphasize the “Major Conclusions” and “Application” sections of the study.

5. Role-play or discuss “What Does Jesus Want of Us?” John 4 (page 102).

As mentioned in the assignment for this chapter, this is optional and should be used only if you feel it would be beneficial to have another session on evangelistic Bible studies. Use the same guidelines as for previous studies in Sessions 3 and 8.

6. Discuss “Evaluating Your Experience in The 2:7 Series” (page 103).

You will lead this discussion and find it to be one of the most meaningful sessions you have had during The 2:7 Series. You can rejoice together in what God has done in your lives and ministries. Start with one of the six questions you feel most appropriate. Try to take this opportunity to share what you feel is the unique contribution made by each person in the group. This will be most affirming as they begin their own ministries.

7. Closing Thoughts.

In the guidelines at the beginning of Course 5, there was mention of graduation plans and also information concerning the certificate of completion. Do you have a graduation activity planned? Contact the CDM Editorial Department for information concerning the completion certificate and letter of recognition.

Turn to Page 104 and read or paraphrase the “Congratulations” section. You may want to conclude with a special prayer of rededication, recommitment, and thanksgiving.

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TEAMING-UP TO WITNESS **(An Evangelistic Bible Study)**

An exciting way to lead a non-Christian towards faith in Christ is to get him/her into the Bible so he/she can decide for himself who Jesus really is. During the 2:7 Series we have learned how to conduct an Investigative Bible Study. The IBS study which follows consists of four lessons, each on a chapter of the gospel of John. It concludes with a presentation of the Bridge illustration and giving the non-Christian an opportunity to receive Christ. You have studied and role-played the material and are now ready to have an actual study.

It is at this point that you need to review "The Need of the Hour." Remember the many passages of Scripture that you have studied which encourage you to believe God and step out in faith to accomplish His purposes.

Encourage the people in your group to finish this part of the 2:7 Series. It is not a prerequisite for graduating from the 2:7, but it is an excellent way to begin to utilize two years of training and preparation for ministry.

Review the IBS material in Course 5 and use the form below to help your group plan for your study.

1. Team Members.....
2. Who will lead the discussion in John's gospel?.....
3. Location..... Date to begin.....
4. Time to begin each meeting.....End meeting.....
5. Frequency of meeting (weekly or biweekly).....
6. Number of meetings.....
7. People to invite.....(See Course 5, page 25)

Pray fervently for people you are going to invite. Your study may not come together on the exact date you plan. Don't give up. Wait until God gives you people who are interested in learning more about Him.

Investigative Bible Study

Suggestions for Leading Discussions in the Gospel of John

WHO IS JESUS CHRIST? JOHN CHAPTER 1

Question 1 — What is said about the Word? Verses 1-3, 14

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What is the function of a word?
- Why do you think Jesus is called the Word?

Cross References:

John 1:18 — Jesus reveals God.

Question 2 — What is another analogy used about Jesus? What is said about it? Verses 4-9

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What is the function of light?
- Why do you think Jesus is called the “light of men”?
- What are the implications of this title?

Cross References:

John 8:12 — If you follow Christ, you won’t walk in darkness.
John 12:35-36 — Light keeps darkness from overtaking you.

Question 3 — How does a person enter God’s family? Verses 11-13

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What do you think it means to receive Christ?
- What are the ways we cannot enter God’s family?
(Not through heredity or self-effort or someone else’s effort.)

Cross References:

John 10:7-10 — Enter through Christ.
John 14:6 — Christ is the way.

Question 4 — How would you describe John the Baptist? Verses 15-28

Possible Discussion Questions:

- How did the priests and Levites respond to John the Baptist?
- How do you think you would have responded to him?

Cross References:

John 3:27-30 — He must become greater, I must become less.

Question 5 — What did John the Baptist say about Jesus? Verses 15-18, 29-34

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What is meant by “grace and truth”?
- Why is Jesus called the Lamb of God?

Cross References:

- John 8:32 — The truth sets us free.

Optional Question:

Five people came to know Jesus in this chapter. Who are they and what led them to want to know more about Him? Verses 34-51

- John 1:35-39 — Two of John the Baptist’s followers
- John 1:40-42 — Simon Peter
- John 1:43-44 — Philip
- John 1:45-51 — Nathanael

WHY DID JESUS COME? JOHN CHAPTER 3

Question 1 — What observations did Nicodemus make about Jesus? Verse 1-2

Possible Discussion Questions:

- Why do you think Nicodemus came at night?
(The Pharisees were the largest Jewish religious sect. Their attitude toward their religion was exterior, formal and mechanical.)

Cross References:

- John 7:48-49 — The Pharisees did not believe in Jesus.
- John 12:42-43 — The Pharisees opposed Jesus.
- John 19:39-40 — Nicodemus helped at Jesus’ burial.

Question 2 — What did Jesus say about the Kingdom of God? Verses 3-8

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What do you think the phrase ‘born again’ means?
- Why is this a requirement for entering the Kingdom of God?

Cross References:

- John 18:36 — Jesus’ Kingdom is not of this world.
- John 12:12-16 — Jesus prophesied as King of Israel.

Question 3 — For what purpose did God send Jesus into the world? Verses 16-17

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What do you think eternal life is?
- What does the word “believe” mean?
(In our times the word “believe” has come to mean intellectual assent. The biblical meaning incorporated the concept of an act of the will, a commitment to a relationship.)

Cross References:

John 17:3 — Eternal life is defined.

John 10:27-30 — Eternal life is given by Christ.

John 5:39-40 — Belief is related to action.

Question 4 — Describe the two kinds of people mentioned in verses 18-21, 36.

Possible Discussion Questions:

How do people respond to the light?

Why do people love darkness rather than light?

Why is God so hard on those that do not believe in Jesus?

Cross References:

John 8:23-24 — People die in their sins if they do not believe in Jesus.

Optional Question:

How can one be certain that God is real? Verses 31-35

WHAT DOES JESUS WANT OF US? JOHN CHAPTER 4

Question 1 — How would you describe Jesus' relationship with the Samaritan woman?

Verses 1-18

Possible Discussion Questions:

How did Jesus show that He accepted this woman? Verses 9, 17

What differences do you see in the way Jesus dealt with this woman and the way He dealt with Nicodemus in John chapter three?

Cross References:

John 3:1-4 — Jesus' dealings with Nicodemus.

Question 2 — Jesus offered "living water" to the woman. Verse 10

What claims did He make about this very special water? Verses 13-14

Possible Discussion Questions:

What did the woman think Jesus meant by "living water"?

What do you think Jesus meant?

What is the thirst Jesus referred to in verse 14?

Cross References:

John 7:37-38 — If anyone is thirsty, come to Christ.

John 10:10 — Christ provides abundant/full life.

Question 3 — What did Jesus tell the woman about worship? Verses 21-24

Possible Discussion Questions:

What is worship?

What does it mean to worship "in spirit and in truth"?

(It is not the religious system, or the forms, or the location that makes the difference. God dwells within the believer and that is where true worship takes place).

Cross References:

John 14:6 — Jesus is the truth.

**Question 4 — What caused the Samaritan people to come to Jesus to learn more about Him?
Verses 27-30**

Possible Discussion Questions:

What changes do you see in the woman from the time she met Jesus until she returned to her town?

Cross References:

John 1:40-42 — Andrew brings Peter to Jesus.

John 1:43-45 — Philip tells Nathanael about Jesus.

**Question 5 — Why did the Samaritan people believe Jesus was the Savior of the world?
Verses 39-42**

Possible Discussion Questions:

What does the phrase “Savior of the world” mean?

What is the key ingredient in believing that Jesus is the Savior? Verse 42

Cross References:

John 5:39-40 — We must come to Christ for life.

Optional Question:

Describe Jesus’ interaction with the disciples after the woman left. Verses 27, 31-38

IS CHRIST THE ONLY WAY? JOHN CHAPTER 5

Question 1 — Describe Jesus’ encounter with the invalid. Verses 1-9

Possible Discussion Questions:

Why do you think Jesus picked this particular man?

Cross References:

John 9:1-7 — Jesus healed a man born blind.

John 20:30-31 — Signs are performed so we may believe.

Question 2 — Imagine having a crippling sickness and waiting 38 years for an improbable cure. Yet Jesus spoke of something worse. What could it be? Verse 14

Possible Discussion Questions:

How can sin cause something worse than physical illness?

Cross References:

John 12:47-48 — Judgment for those who reject Christ.

Question 3 — Why did these Jews want to kill Jesus? Verses 16-18

Possible Discussion Questions:

In what way is Jesus equal with God?

Cross References:

John 1:18 — Jesus reveals God.

John 10:27-33 — Jesus and the Father are one.

John 14:6 — Jesus is the way to the Father.

Question 4 — What kind of relationship did Jesus have with His Father? Verses 19-23

Possible Discussion Questions:

In what sense was Jesus dependent on the Father?

In what ways are Jesus and the Father the same?

Cross References:

John 8:28 — Jesus does what the Father says.

John 14:9-11 — If you see Jesus, you see the Father.

Question 5 — What three promises did Jesus make? Verse 24

Possible Discussion Questions:

What must one do to receive these promises?

Cross References:

John 3:18 — He who believes in Jesus is not judged.

John 20:31 — Believing in Jesus results in life.

Optional Questions:

Jesus stated that there were several witnesses to His deity. Who or what were they? Verses 31-39

How did they witness?

A good way to summarize this study is to conclude with the Bridge illustration or similar tool.