

ignite

DISCIPLESHIP CONVERSATION



—
LEADER
GUIDE



WELCOME, SMALL GROUP LEADERS!

Thank you for setting aside time to shepherd your group through this Discipleship Conversation experience during Ignite Week. As part of our New is Now vision to see Every Heart on Fire, these conversations are a powerful way to start the term through deepening connection, building trust, and growing together as disciples of Jesus. Your leadership creates space for real transformation, and we're so grateful for your heart and commitment. Let's trust God to move in meaningful ways as you guide your group forward, together. In the following guide, you will find an outline of the experience and tips to help you lead the group. If you have questions, please reach out to your Adult Ministry Director for support.

PRIOR TO MEETING:



1

Let everyone know in advance that this will be a special week for prayer, reflection, and discerning next steps as disciples of Jesus.

2

Encourage everyone to bring a physical Bible if possible to avoid phone distractions.

3

Decide if you would like to fast as a group prior to meeting. If so, you may want to break your fast by sharing dinner together as a group.

4

Have pens available for everyone and printed copies of the group guide, if possible.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

(5 MINUTES)

WELCOME EVERYONE

Thank the group for coming and briefly share why you're gathering - *to connect with God and respond to whatever He might be saying.*

Recognize a shared desire to have hearts on fire for Jesus, and to pay attention to how he's inviting each person to take a step forward in discipleship.

OUTLINE THE FLOW OF THE GATHERING

Explain that you'll spend some time together first, then individuals will have about 45 minutes of personal time with God using Scripture and guiding questions.

After that, you'll reconvene to share what you've heard, encourage each other, and discuss next steps for following Jesus together in the coming weeks.

GROUP DISCUSSION

(15 MINUTES)

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

“Whose voice would you recognize on the phone before they ever said their name?”

DISCUSSION PROMPT

“What does it mean to you to know Jesus’ voice and to follow him?”

Where have you seen this in your life?”

TRANSITION TO SCRIPTURE

Highlight John 10:27:

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”

Share that a disciple of Jesus is someone who learns to hear from God and do what He says.

Read John 14:23 and John 8:31 together.

PRAY TOGETHER

Holy Spirit, come now and guide us so that we can listen to your voice and follow however you are leading. We pray that you would stir our hearts to be on fire for you and help us be aware of the new thing you are doing in us. Amen.”

INDIVIDUAL PRAYER & REFLECTION

(45 MINUTES)

1

Encourage the group to find a quiet spot. Let them know they'll read several passages of Scripture and use the guiding questions to reflect on what God might be saying.

2

If possible, play instrumental worship music during this time.

3

Check in after 40 minutes. Let them know you will come back to gather everyone in 5 minutes.

ALTERNATE FORMAT:



If you anticipate that it will be difficult for group members to find *individual spaces* during this part of the experience, you may choose to remain together. In this approach, read the opening paragraph and prayers aloud for each section - *Search Me*, *Cleanse Me*, and *Teach Me*. After each reading, allow 10 minutes of quiet for personal prayer and reflection before moving on to the next section.

GROUP DISCIPLESHIP CONVERSATION

(45 MINUTES)

1. REGATHER & DEBRIEF

Transition from individual time back into group sharing.

Ask: “What was this time of prayer, reading Scripture, and reflection like for you? How are you feeling?”

2. SHARE NEXT “YES”

Invite everyone to share any step of faith (next “yes”) they sensed God might be calling them to take. This might be a personal spiritual discipline, an area of service, a commitment to generosity, or something else God brought to mind.

3. TAKE NOTE

As a leader, write down the next “yes” for each group member to remember and pray over in the coming weeks.

4. PRAY TOGETHER

Pray for each person’s “yes” - ask God for faith, courage, and clarity.

Depending on your group dynamics, you could ask each person to pray for the person to their left or right. Ensure that every person is prayed for.

5. TAKE NOTE

Did anything stand out to you as everyone shared?”

“Are there any common themes?”

“Where do you see the greatest opportunity for our group to grow in connection with God, the church, and the world?”

6. RESPOND AS A GROUP

Discuss what next step God may be calling you to take together.

Decide on your group’s collective “yes” for this season and how you can support each other in moving forward.

Let everyone know that you will continue to encourage one another as a group throughout this season.

Close in prayer for the group.

POST MEETING: →

Plan to check in with your group monthly to assess how each person’s “next yes” is going. Offer encouragement and guide the group to pray for each other’s commitments.

If your group identified a collective “yes”, continue the conversation with your group to determine how you will take this next step together. For example, if your group identified a shared desire to serve together on a consistent basis, what steps need to be taken to help this take place?