



Besprekingstukke vir selgroepe
(Leiersgids)

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Inleiding

Notas vir fassiliteerders en groepleiers

Die Dissipelskap 101 Leiersgids is saamgestel om jou te help met die aanbieding van jou kleingroep vir die tydsduur van die reeks 'Dissipelskap 101'. Die idee is nie om hierdie materiaal slaafs na te volg nie, maar om dit te gebruik as 'n vertrekpunt vir die aanbied van 'n lewenskragtige, Gees-geïnspireerde kleingroep elke week. Hier volg 'n paar wenke om die beste waarde daaruit te put.

IN JOU VOORBEREIDING VIR JULLE WEEKLIKSE BYEENKOMS:

- **Vra die Here** om almal in die groep se harte en gedagtes voor te berei vir dit wat julle gaan doen. Vra Hom ook hoe jy elke persoon kan aanmoedig om die beginsels, wat julle saam gaan ontdek of bespreek, deel te maak van hul daaglikse lewe. Wees oop vir dit wat die Here aan jou wil wys, wat sal lei tot groter openheid en bediening binne die groep.
- **Beplan** hoeveel tyd jy aan elke aspek van die aand gaan spandeer. In elke sessie word die belangrikste of kernvrae aangedui met 'n . Indien die tyd julle inhaal en jy moet minder besprekingsvrae hanteer as beplan, probeer ten minste by hierdie vrae uitkom. Onthou: die doel is nie om deur al die vrae te kom nie, maar om 'n ruimte te skep waarbinne lewensverandering by mense kan plaasvind. Soms mag dit meer bespreking van die onderwerp verg en soms gaan dit vra dat daar meer persoonlike bediening van groeplede moet plaasvind soos wat die Heilige Gees op daardie oomblik lei. Hoe beter jy voorbereid is, hoe makliker is dit om die Here se leiding te volg.

HOE OM HIERDIE MATERIAAL TE GEBRUIK

Hierdie leiersgids het 'n eenvoudige plan vir elke week se groepbyeenkoms.

KUIER SAAM

Skep 'n gesellige, veilige ruimte vir groeplede om regtig met mekaar en die Here te kan connect.

WORSHIP SAAM

Spandeer tyd saam in aanbidding voor die Here.

LEES SAAM

Lees die gegewe inleiding en skrifgedeeltes saam. Moenie alles self lees nie, vra groeplede om hiermee te help.

GESELS SAAM

Bespreek nou dit wat geles is en maak gebruik van die besprekingsvrae. Jy hoef die vrae nie presies net so te gebruik nie, maar dit wil jou help om by die kernsake uit te kom. Stimuleer deelname en oop gesprekvoering. Vermy die versoeking om 'n lesing af te steek, jou rol is om 'n sinvolle gesprek te fasiliteer en almal te kry om deel te neem. Gebruik dus "open-ended" vrae wat nie net met "ja" of "nee" geantwoord kan word nie. Gee mense geleentheid om te sê wat op hulle hart is, al is dit nie noodwendig die regte antwoord nie, want dit vorm deel van die groei-ervaring vir almal.

BID SAAM

Skep geleentheid vir groeplede om saam te bid of om iemand met gebed en die gebruik van die gawes van die Gees te bedien soos Hy lei. Sonder hierdie aspek van groeplewe loop jy die gevaar dat jul groepbyeenkomste verval in akademiese besprekings van 'n onderwerp, sonder dat mense se lewens regtig aangeraak word.

IETS EKSTRA

Ekstra materiaal en skrifgedeeltes wat jy kan gebruik om jou eie hart voor te berei vir die aanbieding van die groepsbyeenkoms.

'n Paar sleutels vir dinamiese selgroepe:

Verhoudings - die diepte van die gesprekke wat ontstaan en die manier waarop mense mekaar bedien binne die groep hang grotendeels af van die onderlinge vertroue wat opgebou word in die natuurlike verhoudings wat tussen groeplede ontstaan. Diep, egte verhoudings vorm dus die grondslag van 'n suksesvolle selgroep.

Openhartigheid - 'n Gesonde selgroep omgewing, waar groeplede mekaar respekteer en aanmoedig, sal lei tot groter openlikheid en eerlikheid. Waar mense voel dat hulle aanvaar en hulle bydrae tot die groep waardeer word, sal hulle makliker hul ware gevoelens deel. Daarom moet groeplede ook kan veilig voel dat dit wat hulle binne die groep deel nie buite die groep bespreek sal word nie.

Gedeelde verantwoordelikheid - Almal wat deel vorm van die groep moet 'n rol hê om te vervul, of dit nou is om reëlings te tref, besprekings te fasiliteer, koffie te maak, aanbidding te lei, sosiale geleenthede te beplan, of wat ook al nodig is. Hierdie verantwoordelikhede kan afgewissel word of vir 'n tyd lank aan 'n bepaalde persoon toegesê word. Selfs mense wat nuut is in die groep, moet van vroeg af deel in die verantwoordelikheid vir die groep. Die ou Chinese spreekwoord sê: "If a stranger comes to visit you, treat him like a king for a week, then give him a hoe to help you in the garden."

Sensitiwiteit - Dinamiese kleingroepe word gebore wanneer die selleier gedurig sensitief is vir die Heilige Gees se leiding oor dit wat moet gebeur, veral tydens die besprekings- en bedientye, maar ook tydens die week in die tye tussen byeenkomste. Gereelde kontak met groeplede buite "seltyd" gee 'n hele ander dimensie aan die groep.

Plesier! - Gesonde selgroepe weet hoe om lekker saam te ontspan en pret te hê! Navorsing het gewys dat humor en pret sleutelfaktore is in die groei van selgroepe wêreldwyd, ongeag die kultuur of kerk denominasie.

Week 1: GERED

Fokus vir hierdie week:

Om deur Jesus gered (verlos) te wees is veel meer as om net 'n plekkie in die hemel bespreek te hê vir wanneer jy eendag doodgaan.

KUIER SAAM

Skep 'n gesellige atmosfeer deur 'n ligte maaltyd saam te eet of ten minste ligte verversings soos koffie en koekies saam te geniet. Hou dit eenvoudig. Die idee is om mense op hulle gemak te sit en te laat sosialiseer. Laat mense met mekaar deel watter interressante dinge die afgelope week met hulle gebeur het.

WORSHIP SAAM

Lees die woorde van Matt Redman se bekende lied 'When the music fades' voor.

*When the music fades,
all is stripped away and I simply come;
Longing just to bring something that's of worth
that will bless Your heart*

*I'll bring You more than a song
for a song in itself is not what You have required
You search much deeper within through
the way things appear. You're looking into my heart*

*I'm coming back to the heart of worship
and it's all about You - it's all about You, Jesus
I'm sorry, Lord for the thing I've made it
when it's all about You, all about You, Jesus*

*King of endless worth, no one could express how much You deserve
Though I'm weak and poor, all I have is Yours, every single breath.*

Laat nog 1 of 2 persone dit voorlees.

Luister of sing self nou hierdie lied of 'n soortgelyke een.

LEES SAAM

Om "gered" te word beteken om heel gemaak te word in gees, siel en liggaam. Wanneer ons ons lewens aan God oorgee word ons gees onmiddellik nuutgemaak. Ons siel (verstand, wil en emosies)

is in die proses om nuutgemaak te word en ons liggaam sal nuutgemaak word die oomblik as ons hemel toe gaan.

Ons word gered deur ons geloof in Jesus te plaas. Redding kan nie verdien word nie, God gee die ewige lewe verniet aan ons. Redding beteken dat ons vergifnis ontvang vir al ons sonde van die verlede, hede en toekoms. Redding beteken ook dat ons geregverdig word, want Jesus het al ons skuld op Hom geneem en het volledig die straf daarvoor gedra. Die oordeel wat oor ons moes kom is reeds in Hom voltrek. Hy het ons verlos (teruggekoop, die aflosgeld betaal) uit die mag van Satan en daarom kan ons nou vry van die oorheersing van die duiwel leef.

Redding is nie vir eendag in die hemel nie, dit skep 'n nuwe lewe vir nou. Dit vra 'n totale commitment – 'n totale oorgawe van ons lewenswyse en volkome onderwerping van ons wil aan die heerskappy van Jesus Christus in ons lewe.

GESELS SAAM

1. Het jy verlossing nog altyd so verstaan, of het dit onlangs vir jou nuwe betekenis gekry?
2. Lees nou die volgende skrifgedeeltes: Galasiërs 2:16, Romeine 3:23-24, Romeine 11:6, 1 Johannes 2:25, Efesiërs 2:8-9, 1 Korintiërs 1:30
Wat sê elkeen van hierdie gedeeltes oor ons verlossing en watter invloed het dit op ons daaglikse lewe (bv dat ek nie kan “werk” om my redding te verdien nie)?
3. Watter aspek van verlossing vind jy die moeilikste om in te berus of op te vertrou (bv jy probeer om op te maak vir die sonde wat jy doen in plaas daarvan om God se vergifnis as 'n gratis geskenk te aanvaar)? Hoekom dink jy is dit so? Wat is die waarheid?
4. Om totaal oorgegee te wees aan God beteken nie dat ons nooit weer gaan sonde doen nie – Jesus het ook betaal vir ons toekomstige sonde omdat Hy geweet het ons gaan weer sondig. Wat beteken dit vir jou om volkome oorgegewe aan God te lewe en hoe vind dit inslag in jou lewe?
5. Is daar areas van jou lewe wat jy nog nie aan God se heerskappy onderwerp het nie?
6. Is jy 100% seker dat jy gered is, of hoop jy maar dat jou lewe vir God sal tevrede stel? Hoekom sê jy so? Is daar dalk iets wat jou terughou?

BID SAAM

Sê dankie vir Jesus vir die verlossing wat Hy moontlik gemaak het deur vir ons te sterf. Help diegene wat 'n daarwerklike oorgawe aan die Here wil maak, of areas van hul lewe aan Hom wil onderwerp, om dit te doen deur hulle te ondersteun en saam met hulle te bid. Moet niemand forseer nie – besluite wat uit skuldgevoel en nie uit opregte geloof gemaak word nie, hou nie lank nie. Maar

indien jy besef dat jy Jesus as Verlosser nodig het om jou sonde te vergewe, en jy gee jou lewe oor aan Hom om in jou te kom woon en jou Here te wees deur jou van binne te beheer en bestuur, dan sal jou lewe radikaal verander, want jy sal volgens Romeine 10:9-11 gered word.

IETS EKSTRA

Jesus Is The Answer

Geoffrey Cohen

As a young Jewish boy growing up in South Africa, I was raised in the rich traditions of my people and heritage. I was circumcised on the eighth day according to the Law of Moses, I learned to read and write Hebrew from the age of seven, and I celebrated my transition into manhood with a Bar Mitzvah at the age of thirteen. I attended private Jewish schools and received training in the Orthodox Jewish traditions. My faith in the one true God—the God of Israel; the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—was unshakeable and sincere.

One day, when I was about 14 years old, I was in the car with my father and a large truck drove past us with the words “jesus saves” painted across the back. Now until this point in my life, Jesus had never really been much of a thought or consideration for me; however, as I read those words, I thought to myself: *What an interesting statement ... if only they had finished the sentence.* I figured the poor guy who began the sentence had simply run out of paint and been unable to complete it. Nevertheless, I grew very curious about what the rest of the sentence was supposed to say. I began to think: *Who does Jesus save? Why would He save anyone? What does He save us from? And how does He save?*

Those two words painted on the back of a truck became the seed in my life that caused me to begin thinking about Jesus and led me down the road towards salvation. Eight years later, Jesus appeared to me as I was walking through the city of Jerusalem, and He spoke a single word to me—*hinneni*—which in Hebrew means, “Here am I.” In other words, Jesus wanted me to know He was the One I had been looking for. That day, I prayed the first real prayer I had ever prayed from my heart, and God heard me.

Now that I am a “completed” or “fulfilled” Jew through my faith in Jesus as the Jewish Messiah, I know that He saved me from *everything* I need to be saved from. He has saved me from an eternity of separation from God. He saved me from my own sinfulness and wayward ways. And He continues to save me daily from my own weaknesses and shortcomings and from straying from the paths of truth and righteousness.

Paul wrote in Romans 1:16, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, *for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes*, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” It is such a simple and powerful message, yet we often make our explanations about Jesus much longer and more complicated than they need to be. Because of this, I think we sometimes miss opportunities to share our faith in a clear and understandable way ... we miss the simplicity and power of the gospel message. The truth is that the Scriptures say, “*Whoever* calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:13). Whatever your questions may be, *Jesus* is the answer.

You might think this message is too simplistic for this intellectual and philosophical generation that struggles to grasp truth and doesn't believe in absolutes. But take a moment and try personalizing Romans 10:13 for yourself by putting your own name in place of the word "whoever." *Whatever* your need is—whether spiritual, physical, emotional or financial—when you call on the name of the Lord, He *will* hear you. He *will* send help and meet your need. It may not be in the timing you like or in the way you hope, but He *will* save you.

Over the past 26 years of my walk with the Lord, I have called on His name thousands of times, and I continue to do so on a daily basis. As I look back at the day when I read a sentence on the back of a truck that I thought was incomplete, I now realize that the sentence didn't need any more words to complete it. When the name of Jesus is in *any* sentence, it is complete!

What do you need to be saved from? I don't know your circumstances, struggles or personal needs, but I do know this ... Jesus saves! Call on the Lord today. He *will* save you from whatever you need to be saved from. More importantly, because of His death on the cross, Jesus saves you so that you can belong totally and completely to Him. Only in *Him* will you find true fullness, contentment and satisfaction ... only *He* can meet your every need.

Ons kan so maklik mense weerhou van God se liefde en verlossing wanneer ons die goeie nuus van Jesus "selektief deel" deur vooraf te besluit wie dit verdien en wie gereed is daarvoor en wie dit sal wil hoor, ens. Glo jy met jou hele hart dat die Here enigiemand kan red, ongeag sy/haar toestand?

Mediteer nou vir 'n tyd lank op die volgende skrifgedeelte. Laat die Heilige Gees toe om hierdie waarheid weer op 'n nuwe en vars manier vir jou oop te breek.

*For "whoever calls on
the name of the Lord
shall be saved."*

Romans 10:13

Week 2: GENEES

Fokus vir hierdie week:

Jesus het fisiese en emosionele genesing vir ons moontlik gemaak.

KUIER SAAM

Laat elke persoon in die groep vinnig deel oor die tyd toe hulle die “fiksste ooit” in hulle lewe was.

WORSHIP SAAM

Maak gebruik van ‘n worship- cd of dvd en loof en aanbid die Here spontaan. Kies 2 of 3 liederes wat op mekaar volg sodat daar nie onderbrekings is nie.

LEES SAAM

Die Griekse woord vir verlossing (“sozo”) beteken om heel gemaak te word. Beide Lukas 4:16-21 en Matteus 8:16-17 verduidelik dat Jesus gekom het om ons fisies en emosioneel te genees. Een van God se verbondsname is “Jehovah Rapha” wat beteken “die God wat Genees”. Jesus verander nooit nie (Hebreërs 13:8), so sy belofte om genesing te bring is vandag nog net so waar.

Lukas 4:18 sê dat Jesus gekom het “om dié wat verbryself van hart is (the brokenhearted), te genees” (OV). Almal van ons het emosionele wondes in ons lewe wat, totdat dit genees is, ons terughou en vasbind met negatiewe en soms verwoestende denkpatrone en optredes. Dit lei tot vestings en (soms baie subtiele) verslawings en hou jou weg van God se beste vir jou. Verwerping is seker een van die diepste wondes wat almal van ons raak. Self-help boeke en menslike advies kan ons slegs help om te “cope” met ons areas van gebrokenheid, maar God kan volkome genesing bring.

God se visie vir jou lewe is nie om jou te help om te “cope” nie, maar om jou totaal te genees.

Lees nou die volgende verse :

Eksodus 15:26, 1 Petrus 2:24, Lukas 9:1-2, Psalm 103:2-3, Lukas 5:17, Matthew 4:23-24

GESELS SAAM

1. Wat sê elkeen van hierdie verse oor fisiese en/of emosionele genesing?
2. Is God se genesing in jou lewe ‘n werklikheid of is dit iets waarmee jy struikel? Wat sê God vandag vir jou daarvoor?
3. Hoekom is dit so belangrik om ons geloof te bou op wat die Woord sê, veral op hierdie area van fisiese genesing? Wat leer die Bybel ons om te doen wanneer ons siek is?

4. Watter tipe ervarings het emosionele seer in jou lewe gebring? Waarom is dit so belangrik om eers genesing hiervoor te ontvang voordat ons regtig vry kan wees? Het jy al sulke genesing in areas van jou lewe ervaar?
5. Hoe verskil genesing van “cope”?
6. Is daar iets wat jy met die groep wil deel, iets waarmee jy dalk al lank in jou hart rondloop waar jy weet God nog genesing in jou lewe moet bring, of dalk iets wat tans vir jou groot pyn bring?

BID SAAM

Indien moontlik, speel die lied “Healer” van Hillsong (of ‘n ander gepaste lied) en gaan daarna oor in spontane gebed en bediening. Vertrou die Heilige Gees om mense spesiaal aan te raak wat spesifieke behoeftes het. Hier is geleentheid vir ‘n kragtige “encounter” met die Here.

IETS EKSTRA

Partnering with God

Mary Jo Pierce

Sitting beside my mother’s casket, I prayed and cried out to be comforted. Mom had been so sick. I had prayed ... prayed hard. But her body had succumbed to the disease. I was a new Christian who was unfamiliar with God’s Word, and I was desperate for answers. I needed to understand God’s Word regarding prayer and healing. The few resources I found produced more condemnation than understanding; it put the responsibility of healing on me. Was I praying with enough faith? Long enough? Hard enough? Smart enough?

This journey of prayer drove me to my knees and to the Word of God. With the Holy Spirit as my Comforter and Teacher, I came to realize that God is the healer. My prayers merely act as the vehicle for releasing the saving power of His Word for others’ healings—whether physical, emotional or mental.

I had to learn how logos and rhema work together. Logos is the written Word of God—the Bible as a whole—which is living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12). Rhema refers to the single promise or promises the Holy Spirit may bring to mind from the Word of God that we personally apply to our lives (Ephesians 6:17).

Some time ago, a dear friend lay in a hospital bed, sick and near death. A congenital heart condition left him with only one option— experimental heart surgery. The doctors held out little hope. My friends were praying for a miracle. Once again, I was driven to my knees and to the Word of God. I began asking the Father how He wanted me to pray. God led me to 2 Kings 20, which tells the story of how King Hezekiah became mortally ill and the prophet Isaiah came to tell him that he was going to die soon. Hezekiah

responded by crying out to God for his life, and Isaiah returned with a word from the Lord saying: "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; behold, I will heal you" (2 Kings 20:1-6).

As I read this account of God's response to Hezekiah's cry, I immediately sensed a deposit of the gift of faith to pray for my friend. In addition to that, I sensed that God was giving me a prayer assignment and message for my friend. God directed me to activate my prayer in person. The next day, I boarded an airplane for Washington DC and went directly to his hospital room. I went over scriptures with him. I added my faith to his faith, and we prayed together. The next day, his surgery took place. Today, my friend is still serving the Lord and testifying to the miraculous power of healing prayer! That was rhema and logoi working together to release God's healing power.

Twelve years later, I was faced with another daunting prayer assignment. A close friend faced an uphill battle towards healing. The doctors' diagnosis was grim, and the treatment was aggressive. Again, I was driven to my knees and to the Word of God. Again, I felt drawn towards the story of Hezekiah. But this time, instead of releasing my faith, I questioned God if this was indeed a rhema word and to please confirm it. And He did! Not just once, but three times ... through His Word, through people and through circumstances. God spoke to me, and I immediately received the gift of faith to pray for a miracle healing. Today, my friend is still serving the Lord and testifying to the miraculous power of God's healing.

I've learned not to presume on a word of prophecy or a single verse as a spoken promise, but to have God confirm what He is saying. I've learned to apply a plumb line for confirmation—does this scripture line up with God's Word, His wisdom and His ways? Does it measure up with His character, godly counsel and my peace? Once I've sought out the answers to these questions, I can partner with God's will for intentional, strategic and focused intercession.

Balancing the Word of God is work, and praying it through is hard work. But the rewards are eternal. Scripture explains it even better. In his letter to the church in Ephesus, Paul wrote: "Be prepared. You're up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it's all over but the shouting you'll still be on your feet. Truth, righteousness, peace, faith and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You'll need them throughout your life. God's Word is an indispensable weapon. In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out" (Ephesians 6:13-18). Your finest hour for prayer is today.

Your finest hour for partnering with God to release His power for healing is today. Go to your knees and to the Word of God for your rhema word and press in! The rewards are eternal!

*"I have heard your prayer,
I have seen your tears;
behold, I will heal you."
2 Kings 20:5*

Week 3: VRYGEMAAK

Fokus vir hierdie week:

Jesus vergewe nie net jou sonde nie, maar wil jou ook vry maak van die krag daarvan in jou lewe.

KUIER SAAM

Laat groeplede in 'n kring sit, gee aan elke persoon 4 stukkies papier en 'n skryfding. Laat elkeen nou 'n kompliment neerskryf vir die 4 mense aan sy/haar linkerkant. Skryf elke keer net een persoon se naam en jou kompliment op een papiertjie neer. Laat die fassiliteerder alles opneem, sorteer volgens name en voorlees en gee die papiertjies met komplimente vir die betrokke persoon as dit klaar gelees is.

WORSHIP SAAM

Worship moet iets spontaan wees wat uit jou eie hart ontstaan. Dikwels aanbid ons die Here met woorde en gedagtes wat in iemand anders se hart ontstaan het. Laat elke persoon nou sy/haar eie Psalm skryf vir die Here. Om dit makliker te maak is daar 'n riglyn in Bylaag A. Maak afskrifte hiervan en deel uit vir almal – laat groeplede self besluit of hulle dit wil gebruik al dan nie. Sit rustige agtergrond musiek aan en gee genoeg tyd hiervoor. Indien tyd dit toelaat, kan mense hulle psalms voorlees as hulle wil.

LEES SAAM

Jesus het nie net gekom om gelowiges se sonde te vergewe nie, maar om hulle vry te maak daarvan. Johannes 8:31-36 verduidelik dat hulle wat in Jesus glo en in sy Woord getrou bly, vrygemaak sal word. *Toe sê Jesus vir die Jode wat in Hom glo: “As julle aan my woorde getrou bly, is julle waarlik my dissipels; en julle sal die waarheid ken, en die waarheid sal julle vry maak.”*

Iemand wat nog voortgaan om voortdurend en onbeheers sonde te doen is nog in die mag van of 'n slaaf van sonde (in bondage). Slawerny/verslawing is enige impulsiewe of kompulsiewe optrede wat jou beperk en weghou daarvan om te wandel in die vryheid en seën wat God vir jou in gedagte het en moontlik gemaak het in Christus.

Ons is vrygemaak van die *skuld en straf* van sonde toe ons gered is, maar ons moet nog steeds loskom van die *mag* daarvan. Dis moontlik vir gelowiges om gered te wees en nog steeds slawe van sonde te wees. Dit is maklik om vrygemaak te word as ons erken dat ons nog in “bondage” is en nederig na Jesus toe kom sodat Hy ons kan vry maak.

GESELS SAAM

1. Wat beteken dit om “vry” te wees?
2. Wat is voorbeelde van optredes en gesindhede waarvan ons dalk bevryding nodig het?
3. Lees Johannes 8:31-36, 1 Johannes 3:8, Markus 9:23, en Lukas 4:18. Wat is ons rol as ons wil Vryheid beleef in Christus? Wat is Jesus se rol?
4. Wat kan ons weerhou daarvan om vry te kom? Hoekom?
5. Hoe kan die leiding van die Heilige Gees ons help om vry te kom?
6. Watter areas van gebondenheid kom daar in jou lewe voor wat jy teenoor die Here moet erken sodat Hy jou kan vrymaak daarvan?
7. Wat gaan jy doen nadat jy jou area van gebondenheid teenoor die Here erken het om hierdie vryheid na te jag. (Miskien moet jy dit teenoor ‘n goeie vriend bely, Travel Lite doen, gaan vir gebedsbediening, ‘n berader gaan sien?)

BID SAAM

Skep nou geleentheid vir groeplede om self met die Here besig te wees en om miskien met mekaar of iemand spesifiek te gesels indien hulle die behoefte het. Skep ook ‘n tyd waar mense spesifiek kan vra dat die groep vir hulle moet bid.

IETS EKSTRA

Free to Be

Bob Hamp

The child was born ... completely unaware that he was in a prison camp. His parents had been herded here while he was still in his mother's womb. As a result, the only world he had ever known was a dark landscape surrounded by barbed wire and guard towers. As he grew, he saw others look longingly towards the areas beyond the fences. He picked up on the desires of his fellow residents to be on the other side of the bars. Although he had never known the other side, he knew he wanted to leave the place where he was. He knew that “out there” was something called freedom. He had never chased a soccer ball across a green field. He had never rushed into the waves on an ocean beach. He had never left his home and gone on a picnic to a remote mountain valley. The boy's picture of freedom was limited—it was exclusively composed of things he wanted to leave behind. In other words, he knew what he didn't want and where he didn't want to be, but he had no idea what he truly wanted and where he truly wanted to be.

Like that child, every single one of us entered the world after Adam and Eve enslaved the human race to sin. We were created in God's image and given dominion over His creation; however, since Adam and Eve, creation has instead ruled over us. We have no way to remember what it was like in the Garden of Eden. No one has ever stood on a mountain and helped God name animals. We've never sat alongside the Living Word and learned how the universe runs. We have yet to experience what it truly means to reign and rule over creation. We don't have any option but to think like prisoners.

When we think of freedom, most of us think about the changes we wish for: "I want to stop being so angry." "I wish I could stop drinking." "I need to be a better father." We stand behind the bars of our own humanity and longingly dream about what it might be like if our circumstances were different, if we could control our thought life or bring our habits into alignment with God. We know what we want freedom from, but we have no idea what living in freedom truly is.

Ironically, the Bible doesn't describe freedom in terms of getting free from something. 2 Corinthians 3:17 says, "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." According to that verse, freedom is not the absence of something; it is the presence of Someone—the Spirit of the Lord.

Freedom is when you can respond to your Maker as the man or woman He created and redeemed you to be. Freedom is when you can function in your heart, mind and relationships as a living representation of God here on earth.

For the man in jail, freedom isn't when the doors are opened; it's when he can absolutely be the man he was made to be, even while still behind bars. The Jews in the Nazi death camps demonstrated this when they said among themselves: "They can make us march to our death, but they cannot make us hate." A man who carries God in his soul can go through the valley of the shadow of death and still fear no evil (Psalm 23:4).

When your heart is set free to worship, it's difficult to still harbor evil. When you are empowered to love deeply, fear loses its grip. When you drink deeply from Living Water, it's unlikely that you'll crave lesser pleasures. The things that once gripped you—the bars of your old prison—disappear or lose their grip in the real and living presence of the Source of all that nourishes your soul. And in the presence of the One who made you who you are, you can once again be the man or woman He has created you to be.

Freedom isn't about our ability to overcome obstacles; freedom is about becoming the fulfillment of God's design. It's not what we do; it's who we are. For this reason, freedom looks different for every person. When you realize that you aren't made to be like anyone but yourself, you become free from the stranglehold of trying to be like others. While a musician may find freedom alone with a guitar, a physician might find freedom in a remote country surrounded by those in need of healing.

Trying to be like anyone else is futile ... it will only leave you frustrated and discouraged, because you can't be anyone other than you. And trying to get your attitudes and behavior under control is only a distraction from the deeper, more valuable goal of letting the Spirit of God who is within you to be unleashed. Remember, wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom ... and the Spirit of the Lord is in you!

Become yourself. Dare to discover the unique fingerprint of God that is who you are. You are without comparison and without equal ... there is no one like you.

Week 4: DISSIPELS GEMAAK

Fokus vir hierdie week:

‘n Dissipel van Jesus volg Hom met volle oorgawe en groei in sy/haar volgelingskap van Christus.

KUIER SAAM

Hier is ‘n ou staatmaker wat mense lekker laat lag en ontspan. Laat almal in die groep in ‘n kring staan met hul regterhand uitgestrek na die kant met die palm oop na bo en die wysvinger van die linkerhand op die oop handpalm van die persoon langs jou. Wanneer die fassiliteerder die bevel gee moet jy die persoon langs jou se wysvinger vang deur jou hand toe te maak, sonder dat jou eie wysvinger deur die persoon langs jou gevang word.

Die truuk lê daarin om afwagting te skep. Gebruik ‘n reeks soortgelyke woorde en dan ‘n “odd” een wat as die bevel dien (bv appels, pere, piesangs, boot en almal gryp op boot) herhaal ‘n paar keer met verskillende opsies.

WORSHIP SAAM

Laat sellede groepies van 3 maak en in die groepie net vir die Here dankie sê vir alles wat in hulle gedagtes opkom waaroor hulle dankbaar is. Sluit af deur ‘n lied saam te sing (met cd/dvd of begeleiding).

LEES SAAM

Om ‘n dissipel van Jesus te wees word opgesom in sy opdrag “Volg My.” Dit is ‘n voortdurende reis waarop die Here ons vorm en skaaf om meer en meer soos Christus te word. Dikwels gebruik Hy ander mense in ons lewe om ons dissipels te maak, maar God is kreatief en kan enigiets gebruik in hierdie proses.

Ons aandeel is om ‘n oop, gewillige hart te hê. Wanneer ons onself oorgee aan die Heilige Gees en Hom verwelkom in ons lewe, kan God ons vrylik vorm soos Hy graag wil. Wanneer ons oorgee aan die Heilige Gees se werk in ons lewe, begin God om die ou dinge van die vlees (die sonde wat ons so maklik verstrik – Heb 12:1) uit ons te verwyder. Dissipelskap is ‘n proses van groei en volwasse raak in die Here. Dit is ‘n voortgaande proses en soos wat ons oorgegee aan Hom neem liefde, vreugde, vrede, geduld, vriendelikheid, goedhartigheid, getrouheid, nederigheid en selfbeheersing toe in ons lewe.

GESELS SAAM

1. Dink jy ooit aan jouself as ‘n dissipel van Jesus en hoekom of hoekom nie?

2. Lees 2 Petrus 1:5-7 Op watter manier is dissipelskap 'n reis van groei na volwassenheid? Het dit meer te doen met dit wat jy kan vermag of met die vorming van jou karakter? Wat was die grootste area van groei vir jou as dissipel in die afgelope jaar?
3. Wie het die Here al oor jou pad gestuur om jou te help groei as dissipel? Wat was hulle rol in jou lewe en hoe het dit jou gehelp om te groei na die beeld van Christus? Is daar tans sulke mense in jou lewe?
4. Oorgawe aan die Heilige Gees is 'n sleutel as jy werklik 'n dissipel van Jesus wil wees. Hoe moeilik/maklik vind jy dit om die Heilige Gees se leiding te onderskei en dit te gehoorsaam? Is daar iemand wat gereeld saam met jou bid en die Woord bestudeer?
5. Hoe belangrik is dit vir jou om Jesus "te volg" in alles wat jy doen deur gehoorsaam te wees aan die Woord en die Gees? Is jy tevrede met jou huidige vlak van commitment teenoor Hom en het jy voldoende ondersteuning hierin? Is daar iets wat jy moet verander?

BID SAAM

Baie mense smag na ondersteuning, maar is te skaam om iemand te vra daarvoor. Laat groeplede saam bid en vra die Heilige Gees om spesifiek vir mense uit te wys indien hulle meer ondersteuning in hulle reis saam met Jesus nodig het en om maniere te skep om dit te laat gebeur.

IETS EKSTRA

Follow the Leader

Todd McIntyre

As the youngest in my family, I often hung out with my brother who was five years older. He was my hero. He would stick up for me and protect me from boys twice my size. I seized every opportunity to follow him around and do the things he did. I adored my brother and wanted to be just like him. Most decisions in my life as a young boy were patterned after whatever my brother was doing. He played football, so I wanted to play football. He played baseball, so I wanted to play baseball. Whatever music and movies he liked, I liked as well. And if he thought a joke was funny, I thought it was hilarious. When he would go hang out with his friends, I would beg to go with him. And for the most part, my brother complied. Whatever he did and wherever he would go, I wanted to follow.

When Jesus called His disciples, He simply gave them one command: "Come, follow Me" (Matthew 4:19). This call to follow Jesus always begins with our hunger to be just like Him. Think about the first disciples of Jesus. In many ways they were like Jesus' younger brothers. He regularly defended them against the religious critics, and many times, He had to put up with their immature antics.

Discipleship is one of the most basic foundations of our Christian walk, and yet, it has become probably one of the most complicated and misunderstood aspects of our faith. Some people have even tried to say that

there's a difference between someone who is a Christian and someone who is a disciple. In reality, they are one and the same. The essence of discipleship can be summed up in a single word—follower.

In describing His mission on earth, Jesus stated: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does" (John 5:19). Jesus showed us that being a disciple is simply about following God. The questions you need to constantly ask yourself are: Am I doing the things Jesus did? And am I speaking and producing fruit like Jesus? Because the degree to which we follow Jesus is the degree to which we can truly call ourselves His disciples. One of the most powerful descriptions of Jesus Christ I've ever read comes from the Scottish theologian James Stewart who wrote:

He was the meekest and lowliest of all the sons of men. Yet He spoke of coming on the clouds of heaven with the glory of God. He was so austere that evil spirits and demons cried out in terror at His coming.

Yet He was so genial and winsome and approachable that the children loved to play with Him, and the little ones nestled in His arms. His presence at the innocent gaiety of a village wedding was like the presence of sunshine.

No one was half so kind or compassionate to sinners, yet no one ever spoke such red-hot scorching words about sin. A bruised reed He would not break. His whole life was love. Yet on one occasion he demanded of the Pharisees how they ever expected to escape the damnation of hell?

He was a dreamer of dreams and a seer of visions, yet for sheer stark realism, He has all of us self-styled realists soundly beaten.

He was a servant of all, washing the disciples' feet, yet masterfully He strode into the temple, and the hucksters and moneychangers fell over one another in the mad rush to get away from the fire they saw blazing in His eyes.

He saved others, yet at the last, He Himself He did not save. There is nothing in history like the union of contrast which confronts us in the gospels; the mystery of Jesus is the mystery of divine personality.

The apostle Paul instructed the believers from the church in Corinth: "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1). I encourage you today to take a moment and reflect on your faith in Christ. Can you truly say that you are a "follower"? When others watch the way you live your life, would they say that you talk and act like Christ? Would they see you hunger for the things Christ hungered for? Would they know that you're concerned with the same issues that Christ is concerned with? Would your life be a representation of Christ?

As a man, a lot of my desires have changed since I was a boy. But one desire still remains the same; I still want to be just like my big brother— my spiritual big brother—Jesus.

*At once they left their nets and followed him.
Going on from there, he saw two other brothers,
James son of Zebedee and his brother John.
They were in a boat with their father Zebedee,
preparing their nets.
Jesus called them, and immediately they
left the boat and their father
and followed him.
Matthew 4:20-22*

Week 5: TOEGERUS

Fokus vir hierdie week:

‘n Dissipel is iemand wat toegerus word om ander te kan bedien met die krag en liefde van Christus.

KUIER SAAM

Laat mense met mekaar deel – “Wat is jou definisie van ‘n regtige ‘great’ dag?”

WORSHIP SAAM

Een manier van aanbidding is om voor God te kniel in aanbidding. Skep ‘n rustige atmosfeer met kussings en kerse op verskillende plekke soos wat die bymeakaarkomplek dit toelaat. Speel rustige agtergrond musiek en gee groeplede geleentheid om in aanbidding voor die Here te verkeer. Jy kan ook ‘n skrifgedeelte gee wat mense sal help om te fokus.

LEES SAAM

Efesiërs 4:11-16 sê dat Jesus sekere mense aan die liggaam van Christus gegee het om te dien as apostels, profete, evangeliste, herders en leraars. Hulle doel is “om die gelowiges toe te rus vir hulle diens”. Indien jy dus in Jesus glo, moet jy toegerus word om ander mense te kan bedien soos wat die Heilige Gees lei, ongeag wat jou beroep is.

Toerusting geskied nie maar net outomaties nie, jy moet jouself beskikbaar stel daarvoor. Baie gelowiges skram weg hiervan, omdat hulle onseker voel oor hul eie vermoëns. Dis juis wanneer jy ‘n bietjie uit jou diepte is en nie vir alles ‘n antwoord het nie, wat God jou nuwe vaardighede en belangrike lewenslesse kan leer. Die hele doel daarvan om toegerus te word is om (soos Jesus) ‘n nederige hart van liefdevolle diens teenoor ander te ontwikkel, nie om alles te kan “fix” nie. Jy moet nie net vertrou op vorige ondervinding nie, maar toelaat dat die Here jou op ‘n nuwe ontdekkingsreis van sy krag en vermoë in jou kan neem, sodat jy bly groei en baie mense deur jou lewe ‘n ervaring van God se liefde en omgee kan beleef.

GESELS SAAM

1. Lees Efesiërs 4:11-16 in twee of meer Bybel-vertalings. In jou eie woorde – wat beteken dit om toegerus te word? Volgens die gedeelte, hoekom is dit belangrik? Wat gebeur as jy nie toegerus word nie?
2. Wat is die “vir hulle diens” (hulle werk van bediening) waarna verwys word?

3. Op watter maniere word jy tans toegerus binne die liggaam van Christus, behalwe om op Sondag kerkdienste by te woon? Gee voorbeelde van mense en gebeure wat jou al help toerus het vir die lewe en vir bediening?
4. Hoekom kan 'n mens nie wag totdat jy toegerus genoeg voel voordat jy begin dien nie? Het jy al in hierdie slagat van kopkennis (of die begeerte daarna) sonder praktyk getrap?
5. Ons sien dat Jesus dikwels sy dissipels eers in 'n moeilike situasie geplaas het en daarna saam met hulle gereflekteer het op wat hulle uit die ervaring geleer het. Hoe skrikkerig is jy vir hierdie manier van leer? Hoe laat dit jou voel?
6. Ons sien dat almal wat in Jesus glo 'n voltydse bediening het, nie net hulle wat vir die kerk of sendingorganisasies werk nie. Waar is jy tans in bediening betrokke? Hoe dikwels bedien jy mense? Hoe laat jy God se koninkryk kom in jou familie en werksplek en vriendekring?

BID SAAM

Laat mense twee-twee saam bid vir mekaar se behoeftes en ook die Here vertrou vir 'n groter impak en lewensveranderende bedieningsgeleenthede vir die groep as 'n geheel.

IETS EKSTRA

Student Driver

John Spurling

I am a great driver! I always wear my seatbelt, never speed and never ever use my cell phone when driving. Ok, ok, I almost always wear my seatbelt, speed occasionally, and try to limit my phone usage while operating a motor vehicle. The fact is, I've been driving for more than 30 years and, while self-critique can be dangerous, I truly believe I'm a very good driver. Up until a few years ago, my opinion went largely unchallenged. Then my teenage daughter began driver's education classes, and I quickly learned what a little bit of knowledge could do in the not-yet-fully-mature mind of a 16-year-old.

It was evident every time the two of us were in the car together. Now, I was being watched! I was being critiqued! And my failure to follow "textbook procedures" was mentioned with regularity. When the time came for my daughter to move from classroom learning to actual driving, my wife determined that the parental responsibility to train our daughter was mine. That was the day I found a safe parking lot near our home and took the leap. I moved over from the driver's seat to the passenger's seat. Those few feet made a huge difference. From that moment on, my prayer life changed forever. Now my baby girl was the driver, and I was the instructor. As a seasoned veteran with years of driving experience, it was my responsibility to take what I had learned and train my daughter to be a safe, defensive driver. Someone who always wears her seatbelt, never speeds and never ever uses her phone while driving ... just like her dad!

Teaching my daughter how to drive helped me to better understand a part of what it means to be equipped for life and good works. Equipping happens when church leaders and other mature believers who have successfully navigated through the busy streets of life are willing to guide less experienced believers who are learning how to live out their faith. Some people may call it mentoring or training others simply call it friendship. Whatever you call it, the need to be equipped to do God's work includes interacting with more mature believers who come alongside you to offer wisdom, guidance and direction (Ephesians 4:11-16).

The truth is everyone is a "student driver" when it comes to living out our faith, and it's God's desire to equip us each day through His Word and His Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16-17; John 14:25-26). Growth and maturity take time and require the seasoning of life experiences before we are sufficiently prepared to navigate our way through life's greatest road tests. This was true even for Jesus Christ. Though we know very little about His early years, the Bible does tell us He was a young man who lived under the guiding hand of His parents and the influence of others "as He grew in wisdom and stature" (Luke 2:51-52).

Eventually, Jesus began to travel as a teacher, guide, mentor and friend who focused His attention on building strong relationships with those who would carry on His mission and vision. He modeled proper behavior and a perspective on life that inspired others to follow in His dusty, well-worn footsteps. As they followed Him, they observed how He lived, what He said and how He responded to situations that challenged His unwavering devotion to His Father. With the reality of Calvary consuming His thoughts, Jesus sent His equipped disciples out in pairs to face the world (Mark 6:7; Luke 10:1-3). He gave them instructions on what they were to say, what they were to do and how they were to conduct themselves. Most importantly, He gave them authority over every evil spirit.

Jesus' method for equipping His disciples wasn't a new concept or breakthrough leadership principle. This form of intentional spiritual mentoring is found throughout the pages of Scripture in the lives of people like Moses and Joshua, Elijah and Elisha, and Paul and Timothy. Jesus knew His days on earth were limited and the time to train His friends for ministry would quickly come to an end. Soon the movement He had started would be in their hands, and eventually, the gripping fate of a martyr's death would become reality for many of them as well. So what Jesus taught, how He lived and the example He set were all carefully modeled so those close to Him would learn and grow.

What about your life in Christ? As you reflect on your journey, are you a student driver or an instructor? Maybe both are true for you! Regardless of where you are on the road to spiritual maturity, it's important for you to have mentors and friends who are wisely guiding your footsteps and teaching you how to drive. And if you're an experienced driver, examine your life today and ask yourself these important questions: What investment am I making in the people around me? Am I investing what God has taught me when I spend time with those who are less experienced? If your answer isn't a resounding "yes," then take on the challenge to give a few driving lessons to those who are trying to keep their life on the narrow road of righteous living. We all need help, and we all need each other.

*A Christian is never in a state of completion
but always in the process of becoming.*

Martin Luther

Week 6: DIENSBAAR

Fokus vir hierdie week:

Diensbaarheid vorm 'n integrale deel van jou groei as 'n gelowige en neem toe namate jy groei in Christus.

KUIER SAAM

Laat elke persoon vir hulle 'n snaakse naam uitdink deur 'n beskrywende woord wat met dieselfde letter as hulle eie naam begin vooraan hulle naam te te plaas (bv Dinamiese Divan of Gawe Gert). Skryf nou hierdie name neer of gebruik naamplakkers en verwys die res van die aand na die persoon met hierdie naam (bv Gawe Gert).

WORSHIP SAAM

Maak gebruik van 1 sterk aanbiddingslied – dit kan bekend of minder bekend wees. Probeer 'n lied kies wat vir jouself (selleier) baie diep raak.

Laat die groep daarna luister en bespreek hierna hoe die spesifieke lied elkeen aanspreek en watter gevoelens by hulle opgekom het terwyl hulle daarna geluister het.

LEES SAAM

Die Bybel leer ons dat ons gered en geroep is volgens God se genade om aan Jesus toegewy te lewe. (2 Timoteus 1:9-10) God se plan bring die beste in jou na vore. Jou roeping het te doen met wat jy doen – **dis wat in jou hande is**. Jou doel het te doen met wat jy koester – **dis wat in jou hart is**. Deur God se doel sentraal in jou lewe te hou bring jy hierdie twee belangrike dinge bymekaar.

Toe God vir Moses geroep het om die bykans onmoontlike te doen het hy totaal onbevoeg gevoel. God se reaksie op Moses se teenstribbeling is om te vra “Wat is in jou hand?” Dit wat in jou hand is, daardie dinge wat jy elke dag doen, is presies die goed wat die Here wil gebruik om sy doel in jou lewe mee te bereik. Hy het ons nie op 'n spesifieke manier gemaak, net om ons nou op 'n ander manier te wil gebruik nie.

Om dit wat in jou hart en jou hande is bymekaar te kry het jy drie dinge nodig:

- 'n openbaring van wie jy werklik is in Christus
- 'n openbaring van sy doel met die kerk (jy is nie net deel van 'n kerk nie – jy is die kerk!)
- 'n openbaring van die missie van Christus

Deur aktief te dien met dit wat die Here in jou hande gesit het, plaas jy jouself in 'n posisie waar God werklik sy doel met jou lewe kan bereik.

GESELS SAAM

1. Jou roeping (dit wat God jou gemaak het om te doen) en jou beroep is nie noodwendig dieselfde ding nie, maar jou roeping het altyd te doen met jou natuurlike talente, jou gawes en jou “strengths”. Wat kan nog alles deel vorm van jou roeping?
1. Waarom dink jy so baie gelowiges na een of ander groot doel vir hulle lewe (dikwels iets buitengewoon en ver verwyder van waar hulle nou in hulle lewe is) en onderskat die waarde van hul roeping?
2. Het jy al ooit ‘n gaping/skeiding/disconnect ervaar tussen dit wat in jou hart is en dit wat in jou hande is? Voel jy ooit dat jou elke dag se lewe in stryd is met dit wat God se doel vir jou is? In watter opsig?
3. Lees Prediker 3:10-13. Wat sê die gedeelte oor ons doel en roeping in Christus?
4. Hoekom is ‘n openbaring van die doel van die kerk en die missie van Christus dan belangrik vir ons individueel om ons roeping en doel te bereik?
5. Voel jy dat jy tans voldoende jou gawes en talente gebruik om ander mense te dien? Is daar iets wat jy moet reël of doen?

BID SAAM

Hierdie saak kan dikwels by mense lei tot groot frustrasie en verwarring en soms ondeurdagte besluite. Bid in die groot groep vir God se wysheid en insig vir elkeen en sy leiding om elkeen nader te bring aan dit waarvoor Hy hulle gemaak het, asook vir daaglikse geleenthede om ander mense te dien met dit wat “in hulle hand” is.

IETS EKSTRA

You're Different

Brad Stahl

In his first letter to Christians scattered across Asia, the apostle Peter urged believers to follow Christ's example of being a servant of all. He instructed them by saying, “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others.” When we break apart this verse, we discover three powerful points concerning serving.

The verse begins with, “Each of you.” This shows individuality. Not a single person is left out; each one of you is unique. There is a place for me and a place for you. The apostle Paul explains it beautifully using the analogy of a human body:

The foot might say, “Because I am not a hand, I am not part of the body.”

But saying this would not stop the foot from being a part of the body.
The ear might say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not part of the body."
But saying this would not stop the ear from being a part of the body.
If the whole body were an eye, it would not be able to hear.
If the whole body were an ear, it would not be able to smell.
If each part of the body were the same part, there would
be no body. But truly God put all the parts, each one of them, in the
body as he wanted them. (1 Corinthians 12:15-19)

Have you ever felt like your differences disqualified you from belonging? You shouldn't. Remember that 1 Peter 4:10 starts out with, "Each of you." That means you! God made each one of us different for a reason, and He placed us in the Body with different gifts and skills as He pleased.

The middle section of the verse goes on to say, "you should use whatever gift you have received." God has deposited special abilities and gifts inside everyone. That means you have a special gift inside of you! Have you discovered what it is? It could be the thing you do effortlessly—the thing that comes naturally to you. It could be something that brings you satisfaction and excitement. In the movie *Chariots of Fire*, the main character—Eric Liddell (who was an Olympic runner)—said, "I believe God made me fast for a purpose. And when I run, I feel His pleasure." Liddell felt a sense of God-ordained satisfaction when he used the unique ability to run that God had given him. In the same way, God is pleased when you use the gifts He's given you to serve others.

God gives each of us different gifts, and they can be expressed in many different ways. Your gift could be a skill like plumbing, painting, playing music or strategic planning. It could be an expression of kindness like showing hospitality, caring for the elderly, reaching out to the hurting or giving to the needs of others. Your gift may be something vocal like speaking words of encouragement, giving counsel, sharing God's Word with unbelievers or teaching. Whatever it is, God has placed gifts inside of you, and He wants to work together with you as you use those gifts to build His kingdom. After winning the Men's 400 metres at the Olympics, Eric Liddell used his ability to run as a platform to proclaim the gospel.

The final part of 1 Peter 4:10 tells the reason why "each of you should use whatever gift you have received." It is "to serve others." Just like our gifts express themselves in different ways, so are the recipients of our service different. Two different people may have the same gift of teaching, but one may want to serve children and the other may want to serve those in financial trouble. Ask yourself who you have a desire to serve. Are you burdened for a specific people group or a cause? Is there a problem that needs to be solved that you can provide help with?

Each time you serve others, you follow Jesus' example. He told His disciples:

"You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:25-28)

The fourth chapter of Ephesians tells us that the Church is edified and strengthened when the members are empowered to use their gifts to do ministry work. Take a moment the next time you're at church or small group to look around at all the people. Each one has been placed there with a special ability to serve people. You have been placed there for a special reason. God is calling you to make the Church stronger through serving. So find a cause, a problem or a group of people, and use your gift to serve.

Week 7: VOL KRAG

Fokus vir hierdie week:

God wil jou vol maak met sy krag sodat jou lewe 'n groot impak kan hê op die mense en die gemeenskap rondom jou.

KUIER SAAM

Deel op in spanne van 3 of 4 - gee 5 minute vir die aktiwiteit. Elke span moet nou 'n relatief bekende liedjie neem en dit vertaal (bv "I want to break free" raak "Ek wil so graag los kom), sonder om vir die ander spanne te sê wat dit is. Daarna lees elke span hulle liedjie voor en die ander spanne moet raai wat die oorspronklike liedjie was. Moet dit nie te "obvious" maak nie. As hulle die liedjie raakgeraai het, moet die span wat dit geskryf het dit sing.

WORSHIP SAAM

Maak gebruik van instrumentale agtergrondmusiek en laat die groep eers rustig word. Fassiliteer nou 'n tyd van spontane gebede ('popcorn prayers'). Moenie op mekaar wag nie (popcorn skiet sommer gelyktydig op!!!!) en konsentreer daarop om niks van God te vra nie, maar om net te verklaar wie Hy is.

LEES SAAM

Dit wat God vir jou in gedagte het is groter as jou eie vermoë. Daarom wil Hy jou vol maak met sy krag. Jesus besit alle mag in die heelal. Daar is genoeg krag in Hom vir alle mense, maar daardie krag is nie beskikbaar vir jou voordat jy Hom ontvang het nie. Wanneer ons gered word, kom woon die Heilige Gees in ons, maar Hy wil ons ook toerus met krag om getuies van Jesus se liefde en plan vir alle mense te wees. Ons ontvang krag van die Heilige Gees deur onself voortdurend aan Hom te onderwerp, sodat Hy vrye beweegruimte in ons lewe kan hê.

Ons ontvang ook krag en gedelegeerde gesag wanneer ons deel is van Sy groter plan, deur ons te onderwerp aan die gesag van sy liggaam, die kerk. So gaan daar vir ons baie geleenthede oop om ander te dien en God se krag in hulle omstandighede te laat werk. Uit Jesus, die hoof van die kerk vloeï daar krag na al die dele van die liggaam, waarvan jy 'n belangrike deel vorm. Bly dus vas aan Hom en vertrou Hom om die onmoontlike moontlik te maak.

GESELS SAAM

1. Wat beteken dit om deur iemand "bemagtig" te word? Ervaar jy tans bemagtiging in jou eie lewe?

2. Om krag van Jesus te ontvang, moet ons onself aan Hom onderwerp? Wat beteken dit prakties vir jou en hoe doen jy dit elke dag?
3. Navorsing wys al hoe meer daarop dat genesing, bevryding, herstel van verhoudings, ens beter plaasvind wanneer mense deel vorm van 'n gesonde gemeenskap as wanneer hulle op hulle eie is. As Jesus ons dan stuur om hierdie dinge aan mense te bedien, hoe belangrik is dit om deel te vorm van so 'n gemeenskap. Wat van mense wat heeltemal op hulle eie wil funksioneer?
4. Watter denkwyses of gesindhede kan mense weerhou daarvan om God se krag in hul lewe te ervaar?
5. Is jy toegerus met krag deur die Heilige Gees soos wat Handeling 1:8 belowe. Lees Lukas 11:9-13 Het jy al vir God gevra vir die Heilige Gees of het jy gedink dit gebeur sommer net outomaties.

BID SAAM

Bedien mekaar en bid vir hulle wat 'n groter begeerte na die Heilige Gees en God se krag in hulle lewe het deur vir hulle hande op te lê en God te vertrou vir bonatuurlike wonderwerke. Julle kan ook mense salf met olie as die geleentheid hom daartoe leun en laat die gawes van die Gees vrylik vloei vir maksimum impak in en vanuit die groep.

IETS EKSTRA

An "All For You" Anointing

Preston Morrison

Growing up, David was pretty much like every other typical youngest son of seven sons. He often went unnoticed. He was rarely talked about by his family. In fact, he frequently found himself outside the presence of his family and in the presence of his sheep. His brothers were all very gifted; and on paper, it appeared as though David wasn't. One brother was very handsome, one was extremely strong, one was probably a gifted athlete and one, no doubt, was incredible at business. David, on the other hand, spent his days anonymously dwelling in a field penning songs for God by day and love letters to God by night.

One day, God told the prophet Samuel to go to the house of Jesse to anoint the next king of Israel. When Samuel arrived, he found a house full of great potential in Jesse's sons. As Samuel went down the line from oldest to youngest, God said no to every single one of them. At first, Samuel thought God had said no to every one of Jesse's sons. But He hadn't. God had simply said no to every son in the room.

There was another son whom the brothers wouldn't even call by name; that was the son God would call forward for His anointing. And right there, in front of all his brothers, who on paper looked so much more qualified than him, God anointed David. Samuel poured the entire bottle of oil over David, and not one of

his "perfectly qualified" brothers got even so much as a drop. Why? Was David better? Did God not like his brothers? Why didn't God share the anointing with all seven sons? Here's the answer: David's brothers were anointed, but for something else. This anointing was not only just for David, it was all for David.

You might feel a lot like David. You may feel that on paper everyone seems more qualified than you. You might feel like you're living in a field of anonymity where people don't even notice you or your giftings. David's life, however, proves that what man notices is not nearly as important as what God anoints.

God has set aside an anointing just for you—and it's all for you—that no one else will ever get to experience. This anointing affects every area of your life. God gives teachers, mentors and pastors an opportunity to teach your children, but He gives you an anointing to do it. God gives many people an opportunity to encourage your spouse, but He gives you an anointing to do it. God gives lots of people an opportunity to succeed in your workplace, but He has given you an anointing at your desk.

So how do we get this kind of anointing?

First of all, be faithful in the field where God has you right now. David didn't care where everybody else was. Why? Because he knew he was supposed to be in the field. Don't get so bothered that the people around you are in bigger fields than you. Be faithful in whichever field you find yourself in today. The favor you want for tomorrow can be found in the field of today's faithfulness.

Second, enjoy anonymity. Never be so shallow that you think everyone in your life must see everything you do. David didn't care who knew his name or who had heard his incredible songs. He did what he was supposed to do—what he was made to do—even though sheep were the only ones to see it or hear it for a season. Don't only do things that people see; do things that only God sees. Don't seek an audience for your success, seek God's anointing for your service. David was so comfortable with anonymity that God knew he wasn't after fame; David was solely after God's heart. And because of this, God gave David his anointing at his appointed time. If you can learn to enjoy your anonymity, you will experience God's anointing.

Third, receive it. When David was called to be anointed, he received it without hesitation. If you don't ever feel like you need God's anointing, you will never receive it. And the simple fact of the matter is that we desperately need God's anointing in order to be everything He created us to be in every area of our lives. God has an anointing set aside for you that no one else is allowed to walk in. All you have to do is receive it. Don't settle for being a good employee or even a great spouse or parent today ... be an anointed you! God didn't create you to be good or even to be great. He created an anointing all for you that knocks out good and never loses to great. It's your responsibility to walk in it. 1 Samuel 16:13 tells us that the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully on David. It also tells us why. David received God's power because he received God's anointing.

Do you want to be empowered today? Walk in God's anointing—your anointing. Because it's all for you and no one else.

*And the Spirit of the Lord
came powerfully upon
David from that day on.
1 Samuel 16:13*

Bylaag A

Skep jou eie Psalm

Ek wil U loof, o Heer, want U is _____
en _____ en _____
_____.

_____ is die Here, vir altyd sal ek U loof.

Die Here my God het _____

Hy het sy liefde aan my bewys deur _____

en deur _____

Sy werke verkondig dat Hy _____

Ek wil U lof verkondig, Here, want vir my is U _____
_____ en _____

_____ en _____ en _____
