

A Journey Group is a special type of small group that strongly emphasizes the following three things: (1) allowing the Bible to speak for itself, (2) practicing *obedience to the Bible as well as an understanding of the Bible*, (3) multiplying more journey groups.

Sometimes called 3/3rds Groups, Journey Groups are designed upon the simple concept that lives are transformed when people engage with the Bible by simply reading and obeying what it has to say. These groups are not dependent upon any curriculum other than the Bible itself. Because of their simple design, Journey Groups require very little preparation and are easy to multiply.

Journey Groups - 3/3rds Format

LOOK BACK (1/3 of your time) **Care** (Over snack/drink/meal) How are 'we' doing? For what are you thankful? Are you 'stressed' about anything?

(Prayer for smaller issues before 'Look Up,' handle difficult issues at end.)

Are you aware of any 'needs' our group might work together to resolve?

Check-up from last week (Never skip)

How have you obeyed what you learned? With whom have you shared your story or God's? Who are you training to help start a new group?

Vision (Never skip) Continually 'fan' the vision of multiplying disciples & new groups. You may use a Bible story/verse, personal story, inspiring slogan or song, etc. Something from these verses may help: Matthew 28:18-20, 13:1-23, Luke 10:1-11, 19:1-10, Acts 1:8, Proverbs 29:18

LOOK UP (1/3 of your time) **Talk Simply with God.** Ask God to teach you this passage. **Read & Discuss** this week's passage. 1. *What did you like about this passage?* 2. *What did you find difficult or hard to understand?*

Reread the passage. 3. *What does this passage teach about God?* 4. *What does this teach about people? (or the life God would have us live?)* 5. *IF APPROPRIATE – What does it teach about evil or the Evil One?*

LOOK FORWARD (1/3 of time) **Obey. Train. Share. (Never skip)** **Have everyone pray for God to show them how to answer these questions, then make commitments, best in 'I will' form, take note of answers.** 6. *How will you apply this passage?* 7. *With whom will you share this story, yours or God's?* 8. *Who are you training to start new groups?*

Practice (Never skip) In groups of two or three, practice what you have committed to do in questions 6-8. Example, role-play a difficult conversation or facing a temptation; practice telling today's story, yours or the Gospel (God's story).

Talk With God In groups of two or three, pray for every member individually. Ask God to prepare the hearts of the people who will be hearing about Jesus this week. Ask Him to give you the strength to be obedient to your commitments.

HOPE SERIES (FOR SEEKERS)

Use the following passages for the "LOOK UP" portion of your group. Your group may need more than one meeting for some of the passages.

1. Hope for the sinner: Luke 18:9-14
2. Hope for the poor: Luke 12:13-34
3. Hope for the runaway: Luke 15:11-32
4. Hope for the lost: Luke 19:1-10
5. Hope for the grieving: John 11:1-44
6. Hope for the seeker: John 3:1-21

SIGNS OF JOHN (FOR SEEKERS)

Use the following passages for the "LOOK UP" portion of your group. Your group may need more than one meeting for some of the passages.

1. Turning of water into wine: John 2:1-12
2. Healing of the official's son: John 4:46-54
3. Healing of the paralytic: John 5:1-17
4. Feeding of the 5,000: John 6:1-14
5. Walking on water: John 6:15-25
6. Healing of the man born blind: John 9:1-41
7. Lazarus raised from the dead: John 11:1-46

DISCOVER SERIES (FOR GROUPS THAT NEED BIBLE BACKGROUND & FAMILIARITY)

Use the following passages for the "LOOK UP" portion. Your group may need more than one meeting for some of the passages.

Discover God- *who is God and what He is like*

1. Creation- Genesis 1-2:3
2. Creation of People- Genesis 2:4-25
3. Disobedience of People- Gen. 3 (2 parts? vs13/23)
4. Noah and the Flood- Genesis 6:5-22
5. God's Promise w/ Noah- Gen.8:15-9:17 (long)
6. God Speaks to Abram- Gen.12:1-7;15:1-6
7. David becomes King of Abraham's Offspring
1 Sam16:1-13; 2 Samuel 7:1-28
8. King David & Bathsheba- 2 Samuel 11:1-27
9. Nathan's Story- 2 Samuel 12:1-25
10. God Promises Savior will come- Isaiah 53

Discover Jesus- *who is Jesus & why He came*

1. Savior born- Matthew 1:18-25
2. Jesus' Baptism- Matthew 3:7-9, 13-15
3. Crazy Man Healed- Mark 5:1-20
4. Jesus never Loses Sheep- John 10:1-30
5. Jesus Heals the Blind- Luke 18:31-42
6. Jesus and Zaccheus- Luke 19:1-9
7. Jesus and Matthew- Matthew 9:9-13
8. Jesus is the Only Way- John 14:1-15
9. Holy Spirit Coming- John 16:5-15
10. Last Dinner- Luke 22:14-20
11. Arrest and Trial- Luke 22:47-53; 23:13-24
12. Execution- Luke 23:33-56
13. Jesus is Alive-Luke 24:1-7,36-47;Acts 1:1-11
14. Believing and Doing- Philippians 3:3-9

Psalms - the Classics

Ch. 8 – God's Majesty Ch. 19 – Law of the Lord
Ch. 23 – Lord is Shepherd Ch. 27 – Light/Salvation
Ch. 40 – Divine Deliverance Ch. 42 –Why Downcast?
Ch. 46 – Refuge & Strength Ch. 62 – Rock/Salvation
Ch. 63 – Thirsty Soul Ch. 73 – Get Focused
Ch. 90 – Eternal vs. Finite Ch. 91 – In the Shadows

Where next? Choose your own Bible passages, keep meeting. Use same questions and format.

3/3rds Principles

Small – Keep groups small. Start groups around circles of relationships, people who already know each other. Meet where these people already gather like in a home, café or under a tree. With a larger group, divide into sub-groups of 3,4 or 5 people.

Everyone Learns to grow on their own – In the group, everyone learns to grow by doing the following on their own: 1) Tell others about Jesus 2) Learn from the Bible 3) Talk with God 4) Help & encourage other believers 5) Boldly face difficulty and hard times.

Consider everyone a potential facilitator or trainer

View everyone as a potential trainer, both before and after they follow Jesus. Leaders are usually unpaid and without formal schooling.

Obey & Train – The groups are obedience based, not just knowledge focused. Follow Jesus by learning & obeying the Bible through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Make practical and specific commitments each meeting and review them the next time you meet. Become fishers of men by training others how to learn and obey as well. This creates an environment in which loving Jesus means obeying Him.

New Groups through mentoring & multiplication –

Focus on starting new groups rather than big groups. Meet with new leaders as they start new groups. Train them to do the same for others. Keep everyone connected for ongoing training and accountability.

Discuss & Discover – Focus on the Bible. Trust the Holy Spirit to help each person discover the meaning of Scripture. Lead through asking questions rather than preaching. Try to allow everyone to participate.

Consider 'SPECK' questions of each passage.

Is there a **Sin** that I need to confess in this passage?

Is there a **Prayer/Praise** to offer or **Promise** to claim?

Is there an **Example** I need to follow?

Is there a **Command** I need to obey? Is there

Knowledge I need to gain?