

Learning to Lead

Session Five

Win

✓ Check each item below after you have discussed it with your Leader.

Preparation before you meet with your Leader:

- 1. Read **Reproducing Our Life Group**. Be prepared to describe the process of birthing a new group.
What would be a good date to begin our new group? Date _____
Prayerfully prepare yourself for leading your own group.
- 2. Read **Choosing Your Apprentice**. Do you have an Apprentice chosen? _____
Who? _____ Why? _____

- 3. **Win**. Read **A Vision for My World**. Be prepared to share your personal commitment to sharing Christ with others. Share how the Dynamic Sharing training has helped give you confidence to witness.
- 4. **Win**. Read **Practical Strategies to Reach My World**. What strategy would our group enjoy doing together?
- 5. **Win**. Read **How to Witness as a Lifestyle**. Be prepared to share with your Leader a personal example of witnessing as a lifestyle.

To be completed with your Leader:

- 6. Each person share **how God has blessed you as you witnessed to others**.
- 7. Discuss and (✓) check off points 1 through 5 above.

Planning to share with our group this month:

- 8. Leader begin to share with our group **plans to birth a new group**. Ask the group to pray with you as plans develop. Date _____
- 9. Discuss and choose an **Outreach Strategy** to do as a group. Set a date _____
Assign various responsibilities.
- 10. Encourage **Witnessing as a Lifestyle**. Continue to pray as a group for those chosen from your **Sphere of Influence**. Ask group members to share results of their prayer for and witness to these people.

Prayer and Closing:

- 11. Pray for personal needs and needs of group members.
- 12. Go over Preparation assignment for Session Six.
- 13. Set a Date _____ Time _____ Place _____
for our next Learning to Lead session.
- 14. Set a Date _____ Time _____ Place _____
for our next Dynamic Sharing training.

Reproducing Our Life Group

Through the ministry of Life Groups, we are committed to community saturation through relationships and evangelism. As members of our Life Group become more effective in reaching out to others in their community, there will be growth both spiritually and numerically. New people will continually be added. In order for growth to continue it will be necessary for groups to birth or reproduce.

Groups that don't reproduce become ingrown. They will reach saturation capacity and then begin to decline. They become self-serving, looking only to their own needs. In such an atmosphere, newcomers do not feel welcome. Also, members may begin to depend more on one another or the Leader rather than on the Lord. It is possible to feel "too comfortable" in a group, and so, forget our reason for being. Life Groups must exist for ministry to others. That is God's purpose for us. As their Leader, teach your group to REJOICE IN GROWTH!

Guidelines to Reproduce and Multiply Your Group:

Group Size – "Small Group" suggests a size that allows for face-to-face relationships. It should not be so large that anyone is kept from taking part in the discussion and sharing. A group can be as small as three and as large as twelve and still be effective. However, any larger than twelve the effectiveness dwindles. When a Small Group has from 8 - 12 regular attenders it is time to birth a new group.

Catch the vision of how God could bless many other people if our group reproduced.

Our group could reproduce many times and bless many lives.

$1 \times 2 = 2 \times 2 = 4 \times 2 = 8 \times 2 = 16 \times 2 = 32 \times 2 = 64 \times 2 = 128 \times 2 = 256$ etc.

Our goal should be for each group to birth a new group every 6 months.

Birthing Preparation - Long before the actual birthing takes place, the Leader must be involved in the preparations.

1. One of the objectives of the Life Group is to develop Leaders. Leaders should be recruiting and developing Apprentices to lead new groups.
2. From the beginning the Leader must teach his group the importance of outreach which will bring growth and the need for birthing. As the time approaches for birthing, he must make the group aware of what will take place. Let them be involved in this process through praying for new Apprentices and asking God's wisdom and direction.

3. A time should be planned for discussion about birthing. The subjects for consideration will be:

- when and why the birthing will take place.
- who the new Leader will be (approved by Pastoral leaders),
- who will meet with each Leader (let each person choose),
- where each group will meet.

The group needs to be aware of each of these issues before the actual date of birth.

Emphasis

1. Realize people are creatures of habit and will resist change, especially if not prepared in advance.
2. Begin to use the proposed new Leader more and more, giving him exposure and esteem before the group.
3. Once a new location is decided, begin to talk enthusiastically about it. Enthusiasm is contagious. People will naturally choose to be with the Leader and others who have had a ministry in their lives. Pray that God will put the two groups together as He wants.
4. As the Leader, generously allow people to go to the new group.
“There is one who scatters, yet increases all the more, and there is one who withholds what is justly due, but it results only in want.” Proverbs 11:24
5. For a few weeks after birthing contact the new Leader to see if any people have been lost or overlooked in transition.

Lack of Leaders and Apprentices

It is possible that a group may grow to twelve people and still have no Apprentice within that group to assume leadership of a new group. If this occurs, the Leader, as he sees the need approaching should confer with his Coach. Perhaps a potential Leader can be assigned into the group from the outside who can ultimately lead the new group. This is not the most desirable but in some cases may be necessary.

**Each new group should start with the Apprentice
and Host/Hostess in place.**

Choosing Your Apprentice

Marks of a Leader

1. He does more than he is asked.
2. He does not wait to be told (self-starter).
3. He knows the difference between principles and methods.
4. He operates according to priorities.
5. He is secure enough to say
 - a. I don't know
 - b. I was wrong
 - c. I am sorry
6. He is always looking for ways to improve the group.
7. He is a good communicator.
8. He is sympathetic to needs.
9. He is always available.
10. He builds others up.
11. He desires to replace himself.
12. He is open to new methods and ideas.
13. He realizes he cannot take someone else where he has not been.

In summary, we need men and women who are deeply committed to the Life Group ministry and have the burden on their hearts for people. A Leader should study the life of Christ closely and have a good working knowledge of Jesus. How Jesus influenced people is how a Christian leader should seek to influence people in the church and community.

Win - A Vision for My World

The critical need of this hour is for Christians to recapture the vision contained in Jesus Christ's command to His disciples, "***Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation***" Mark 16:15

This Great Commission from our Lord was obviously a challenge that the disciples could not fulfil in their own power. However, the Holy Spirit was able to move through men and women, causing such a rapid chain reaction of new believers that all the known world of the first century heard the claims of Christ. The gospel penetrated lives with such power that a pagan Roman Empire was "***turned upside down.***"

The power of Jesus Christ and His gospel is undiminished today; yet, today Christian influence has not equalled that of the first century. This has resulted in over half of the people living today never having heard the message of Christ.

Our Lord never told the world to go to the Christians. Rather, He told Christians to go to the world and to deliver the message of the gospel, which alone "***is the power of God unto salvation.***" The goal of this session is to help you instruct and motivate your group regarding our potential to influence others for Christ.

Today, most Christians live lives of personal defeat and it affects their witness to others. Much attention is given to all the negative influences in modern society, but Christians are rarely made aware of how God can use them to be a positive influence. Paul felt so inadequate that he described his condition as *“in weakness and fear and with much trembling”* I Corinthians 2:3. Many Christians are beset by doubts that they can exert any influence on non-Christians. You need to see how Paul was not defeated by his inferiority feelings. His ministry was powerful: *“We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labour, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me”* Colossians 1:28,29. You can also be used of God, not because you are bold or wise, but because God works within you.

Win - Practical Strategies To Reach My World

Evangelism seems to strike fear into the hearts of many Christians. Why? Most believers have never shared their faith with anyone. Why not? Is it because the unchurched are negative or opposed to the gospel? No! Most people when asked if they would attend a church if invited by a friend said, “Yes, I would” Most people when shared with are very open to the gospel. Not all are ready to receive Christ but they are open to talk and want to understand.

The world is changing! The world is in turmoil - nothing seems to make sense! **The gospel makes sense!** It gives hope in a hopeless world. Most people want to hear. We just need to choose methods that are relevant and clear.

There are many methods. Some are more effective for you than others.

To encourage you to be creative here are a few suggestions:

1. **Invite people to church.**

Make it your practice to invite your friends and acquaintances to attend church or your Small Group.

2. **Neighbourhood Questionnaire** (see sample Lesson Six Dynamic Sharing)

This is simple to do and very effective. One man and his partner, recently called on 12 homes in one hour. They talked to 8 people, shared the gospel with 5 people, and 3 prayed to receive Christ.

People are so open, they will talk to a stranger and even receive Christ right at their front door.

3. **Personal Testimony**

Briefly share your testimony whenever you have the opportunity.

People need to hear what God has done for you. Every Christian should have a simple way of explaining his/her testimony. Help your friends prepare their **Life Story**. Use the workshop in One-to-One Dynamic Discipling Session Eight, Dynamic Sharing Lesson One or Leaders Who Lead Session Five.

4. **Gospel Booklets**

Always carry gospel booklets Knowing God Personally or Four Spiritual Laws and the Holy Spirit booklets with you in your pocket or purse so you will be prepared.

5. **Films or Videos**

- Jesus film
- Marriage
- Parent and Teen
- Drug abuse etc.

You could leave one with a friend to view and follow up later or invite friends over for the evening to view the film. This can be done anytime. Special occasions such as Christmas or Easter are especially appropriate.

For example in your small group you may want to share one copy of the 'Jesus' video. Each person or couple, if they desired, could take a turn using the video and invite neighbours or friends over for an evening to view the video. The rest of the group would commit themselves to pray for that couple and the people they will be inviting. After the showing of the video the following questions could be asked:

- What did you think of the film?
- Did the message make sense to you?
- Have you ever invited Christ into your life as the film suggested? If not ask,
- You would like to wouldn't you?

6. **Friendship Parties**

Refer to Leaders Who Lead Session Five for clear instructions on how to set up and conduct a Friendship Party. This is an excellent strategy to use with your Small Group or with other friends.

7. **One-to-One Evangelism - Dynamic Sharing**

The reproductive nature of One-to-One, will result in the greatest number of people being reached. It will require patience at first because it starts out with small numbers. As you train others who train others the numbers will grow. As soon as you complete training one person be sure to begin training another. Get contacts for home visits from your Pastor or visitation co-ordinator. Have each ministry in your church fill out a Guest/Contact Report on each new person with which they have contact. Continue to expand your list of names of people in your sphere of influence. Pray for each one regularly and seek to share Christ with each person.

8. **Sharing Christ as a Lifestyle**

Always be prepared to share with anyone anywhere. See next page for help.

Win - How to Witness As A Lifestyle

A. Be available to God and to people:

Read II Timothy 4:2a. What does this verse mean to you?

God is more interested in your availability than your ability. He will bring people to Christ through you when you are available to Him.

B. Ask God to give you opportunities to witness:

1. Be specific. Pray for God to arrange divine appointments. Ask Him to lead you to someone.
2. Assume that when you are alone with a person for a few minutes that it is an answer to your prayer.
3. Consider an opportunity to witness a privilege, not a responsibility.

C. Meet people where they are:

Many Christians spend most of their time with other believers going from one Christian activity to another, leaving little opportunity to meet people who are non-Christians.

In order to share Christ with non-Christians you must go where they are. Be alert and share as the Lord gives you opportunity.

D. Ask God to give you a loving interest in everyone you meet:

1. Be friendly.
2. Open the conversation by asking questions. Questions of where, who, how, what, when and why help develop conversation.
 - a. Read John 4:7. What question did Jesus ask the woman at the well?

Why did He ask her this question? _____

b. Read Acts 8:30. What question did Philip ask? _____

Why did he ask this question? _____

3. Some suggested questions to ask:
 - a. A neighbour:

“Hi, my name is _____. I just wanted a chance to meet you.
How long have you lived here?”
 - b. A fellow traveller:

“Hi, my name is _____. Where are you travelling to?”

c. Others:

“Do you live in this city (area)?”

“What do you do for a living?”

“May I help you?”

“Will you help me with _____?”

E. **Talk about Christ:**

Read Acts 8:4. What does it say about the believers? _____

First century Christians shared the good news of Christ in their everyday conversations wherever they went. Today we need to have our eyes open to the many opportunities to meet people and share Christ. You are a unique person and have a sphere of influence not duplicated by any other person. Begin to establish rapport with individuals by asking questions, sharing your own experience and then using simple transitions that will allow you to share the gospel with them.

Sample Transitions into sharing the gospel using a booklet such as The Four Spiritual Laws or Would You Like to Know God Personally?

1. “I have been studying a little booklet that really makes sense. May I share it with you?”
2. “I have a booklet that explains what it means to be a Christian. May I share it with you?”
3. Give a short personal testimony and say, “Let me show you what is involved in becoming a follower of Christ.”
4. “Do you ever think about spiritual things?” or “Are you interested in spiritual things?”
5. “May I share with you how Jesus Christ relates to life today? Do you have a few minutes?”
6. “Have you come to the place in your life where you know for certain that you belong to God and that if you were to die today you would go to heaven?” If yes say, “Suppose you died today and stood before God and He asked you, ‘Why should I let you into my heaven?’, what would you say to Him?”. If they are uncertain say, “May I share with you how you can be certain?”

Choose strategies that would be appropriate for you and the various people with whom you have the opportunity to share God's love.

Remember to:

Be available to God and to people

Ask God to give you opportunities to witness

Meet people where they are

Ask God to give you a loving interest in everyone you meet

Talk about Christ

God bless you as you share the good news of Jesus Christ and train others to do the same!