

# Disciple Path Leader Notes

## Chapter 0 | At the Start

Look for:

- A commitment to grow through the Disciple Path experience.

Ways to help:

- In scheduling regular meeting times with your group, as much as possible defer to their calendar and schedule- it's about making it work for them! Stretch yourself, and God will bless your sacrifice.

In Preparation:

- Pray for your group members, for yourself as leader and for your time together.
- In this meeting, you'll all have the chance to share your faith stories. Model by going first when you get to this part of your meeting. Prepare by thinking about the events and people that were significant to your faith journey.
- Review the basic meeting outline on pg. 9 with your group, highlighting that at each meeting you will share together how God spoke during one of your daily quiet times, and one opportunity God gave you to love or serve others.

## Chapter 1 | Prayer

Look for:

- Whether the people in your group are spiritual self-feeders or not. To help discern, you can ask questions like: Did you read every day? Did you pray every day? Do you have a certain time of day that works best for personal devotions?

Ways to help:

- Share ideas in the group of what's helpful in establishing rhythms of connecting with God.
- If you sense or hear of struggle in this area, help them articulate roadblocks and a plan/ideas that may help.

In Preparation:

- Pray for your group members, for yourself as leader and for your time together.
- You will want to be familiar with the Prayer of Examen that is used in this chapter. You can find it in the resources section in the Disciple Path tab at [providencechurch.net](http://providencechurch.net).

## Chapter 2 | Calling

Look for:

- Whether the people in your group struggle to believe their identity in Christ.
- Understanding/clarity about calling in this season of life.

Ways to help:

- If you sense or hear of struggle regarding identity in Christ, try to dig deeper into what they believe about God- does He truly love, accept, and forgive as Scripture claims?
- If you sense or hear of struggle regarding calling, go back to the questions in the Action Step on pg. 38 and process together.

In Preparation:

- Pray for your group members, for yourself as leader and for your time together.
- In this chapter, the Action Step is to write out your calling in your current season of life. These do not need to be long (a sentence or two, up to a paragraph) or complicated. We encourage you to be the first to share in your group- just keep it simple.

## Chapter 3 | Self-Denial

Look for:

- Whether or not the people in your group accept that self-denial is at the heart of discipleship.

Ways to help:

- If you sense or hear of struggle in this area, help them articulate their reluctance to surrender, and gently explore the reasons and ramifications.

In Preparation:

- Pray for your group members, for yourself as leader and for your time together
- In this chapter, each person will practice fasting. Discuss with your group if you want to do this on the same days to help with accountability.

## Chapter 4 | Gospel

Look for:

- A firm understanding of the gospel story- all parts should be included in the retelling

Ways to help:

- For most people, being comfortable talking about the gospel just takes practice- so give your group members opportunities to articulate the gospel story until you sense that it is easy for them.

In Preparation:

- Pray for your group members, for yourself as leader and for your time together.
- In this chapter, group members will have several assignments: they will learn to articulate the gospel story and then share it with your group, and with someone else (this can be a family member or friend). They will also share during your group time parts of their own story that point to God. Be prepared to explain these assignments and follow up to ensure they have been completed.
- Moving forward, you will be reading from the book of Luke, then Acts, and finally from 1 John. Check in with your group members to see how their Bible reading is going. If they need a resource for enhancing their Bible reading, suggest the REAP method. These can be found in your Leader Notes packet or in the Resource Section of Disciple Path online.

## Chapter 5 | Forgiveness

Look for:

- A willingness to be vulnerable within your group as you begin to practice mutual confession in this chapter.

Ways to help

- If you sense or hear of concern in your group members being willing to engage in mutual confession, remember that this is probably normal. Encourage them to be open to the experience and remind them that this is a Biblical practice intended for our freedom. Model for them by being bravely vulnerable yourself. Also, remind your group of the covenant you have made together to not talk with others about anything that group members would not want shared.

In Preparation:

- Pray for your group members, for yourself as leader and for your time together.
- Beginning with this chapter, you will practice mutual confession at each meeting with your group. Facilitate this time in your group by:
  - Asking your group members to consider how they may have sinned in these areas: word, thought, action, or attitude.
  - Also think about how they may have harmed relationships- family, friends, church, neighbors, co-workers.
  - Mutual confession can be done through conversation, or by each member offering a prayer of confession. If you have a conversation, close your time by asking someone to pray. If you confess in prayer, follow the prayer with conversation, using some of these questions: How specifically can each of you pray for the other? Are there accountability questions you'd like me to ask you? Are there specific types of help or encouragement that each other finds helpful?

## Chapter 6 | Hospitality

Look for:

- A growing outward focus in your group members. Do they have a desire to engage with others?

Ways to help:

- If you sense or hear of struggle in this area, remind your group members that hospitality takes many different forms and can look different for everyone. It is not about presentation (having a beautiful home or a fancy meal)- it is about making others feel welcomed and included.

In Preparation:

- Pray for your group members, for yourself as leader and for your time together.
- In this chapter, each person will practice hospitality by making some sort of invitation. Continue to check in as you progress through this chapter to see if they are following through with the assignment.

## Chapter 7 | Suffering

Look for:

- A willingness to allow God to use all parts of your story- including the painful/shameful/ongoing struggle- by sharing it with others and pointing to Him.

Ways to help:

- If you sense or hear of concern in this area, be empathetic and don't push. Remember that each person will be on a different journey regarding suffering, and some of the paths being walked by your group members are extremely painful. Handle this chapter with gentleness.

In Preparation:

- Pray for your group members, for yourself as leader and for your time together.
- You are nearing the end of your Disciple Path journey. The hope and expectation is that your group members will soon begin discipling someone themselves, perhaps using Disciple Path. Now is the time to be having intentional conversations about this and be praying together as a group about who could be invited into a discipling relationship.

## Chapter 8 | Justice

Look for:

- A Biblical understanding of justice, rather than a cultural one

Ways to help:

- Because justice is often connected to politics in our culture, avoid political conversations that create division.
- If a group member is struggling to connect to any specific issue, return to the "5 Giants of Injustice" found on pg. 146 and discuss together which one of them might tug most at their heart.

In Preparation:

- Pray for your group members, for yourself as leader and for your time together
- In this chapter, each person will be asked to take a step towards action on some justice issue. This can be done individually, or perhaps your group would like to do something together (serve at a soup kitchen, clean up trash at a local park, hold a garage sale with proceeds going to a chosen charity or group that fights injustice, etc...)
- Be thinking ahead- continue to process with your group who they might disciple and pray together for God's guidance on next steps.

## Chapter 9 | At the Conclusion: Watchfulness

Look for:

- An understanding that the discipling process is not ending, but that it is shifting- they will now take a leadership role.

Ways to help:

- Talk through next steps with your group members. Encourage, encourage, encourage! Let your group members know that you will check in with them in a couple weeks to see if they have made an invitation to anyone.

In Preparation:

- Pray for your group members, for yourself as leader and for your time together.
- Think about how you want to celebrate this Disciple Path experience with your group and plan something fun – a dinner out, a bonfire, drinks and snacks at your meeting- whatever feels like an appropriate way to acknowledge the relationships you've built and the growth you've helped each other achieve.

THANK YOU for being a disciple maker! We know the Lord smiles over the time you have invested into the life of someone else!

May you be blessed as you reflect on how God has used you!