



A FELLOWSHIP
OF APPRENTICES
Leading Meaningful
Follow-up Sessions



THE
APPRENTICE
SERIES

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Once your group has been through the Apprentice study, it might be helpful to spend time soaking in the truth you've discovered together. This basic guide is designed to lead a group through reflection on their awareness of God's presence and provision.

This format is designed for groups of three to six people. If you have a larger group that has completed Apprentice, we recommend dividing into multiple groups.

COMMITMENT

Meet twice a month for approximately 90 minutes.

GATHERING OUTLINE

RECONNECTING (10 minutes): Spend time catching up on life in general. Fellowship is important, and eventually this is the very material you will be exploring.

SILENCE (5 minutes)

TEACHINGS ON THE KINGDOM (10 minutes): Have someone in the group bring a scripture, devotion, or quote that illuminates their understanding of the Kingdom of God in your midst.

KINGDOM VISION (45 minutes): One of the primary challenges we face is being told over and over again that we are alone and we have only our own resources for survival. In contrast, the message of the gospel is that God is with us and God is willing to share with us all the resources we can possibly need. This different message is the "with-God life" that Jesus describes as the Kingdom of God. Even after we have heard, understood, applied, and lived this message for a while, we may still overlook God's presence and provision, or we may encounter new areas in our lives where we have not yet realized God's Kingdom at work.

With this challenge in mind, share individually your answers to the following two questions. Have each person in the group discuss question one as they are able, then have each person discuss question two.

1. Since the last gathering, where are you seeing the Kingdom of God? In other words, how has God

seemed especially present, generous, near, or loving to you?

- a. With this first question, spend time savoring what you have experienced. Be sure to explore not only the head knowledge that comes from this experience—this is very important—but also explore the emotions that go with it. Also explore how it is impacting your relationship with God.
2. Where does the Kingdom of God seem absent or inapplicable? Consider ways God has seemed distant, lacking, or unloving, as well as times you have felt alone or isolated in a situation.
 - a. With the second question, it is important to be compassionate with one another. Invite the Spirit to be at work in these situations. Avoid the temptation to tell people where God is in their lives, such as, "You don't see it?! God is teaching you to trust him more by getting you laid off from your job." Instead, ask questions to help clarify the situation and go deeper such as, "Since you've been unemployed, what narratives about God are being tested for you?" Overall, discuss what narratives are being changed within you because of this situation.
 - b. Explore Scripture passages and chapters from Apprentice that will help you discover what God longs to show you.

RULE FOR LIFE (20 minutes): Discuss your personal "rule for life." What practices are you doing and how are they affecting you? What practices should be dropped? What practices should be added? If your group has some soul-shaping exercises that you do as a group, be sure to discuss these as well.

CLOSE WITH PRAYER (5 minutes): Spend time lifting each other up in prayer before you go. The prayers can be silent or aloud, and you could use candles to symbolize your prayers for one another.

Keep each other in prayer until you meet again.

Check out the "Additional Resources" page at www.ApprenticeofJesus.org for additional resources you can read, listen to, or view outside of your group time.

THE APPRENTICE SERIES SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDES & SUPPORTING MATERIALS.

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