4 Ministries: Build

We can help people grow to be true followers of Jesus

+Essentials

A

Group Discussion Flow

connect with needs

- Find out how they are doing. Ask also how their ***action to take*** and ***person to tell*** went last week.
- Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- Start by stating: *"People need to grow in their relationship with God."*

  Then, surface experiences:

  "Let me tell you how I have experienced this."

  "Tell us how you have experienced this."
- Transition to the Bible by saying, *"God uses Christians to help other Christians grow in their relationship with God."*

hear what God says

- Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic.

  Choices:

  1 Thessalonians 2:7–13 (story)
  2 Timothy 4:2

  Commentary:

  1 Thessalonians 2:7–13 — In this passage, Paul shares about his relationship with the church in Thessalonica. He nurtured and cared for them, as a parent would for a child. He also says that he shared his life with them. Discipleship happens best as people experience life together.

  2 Timothy 4:2 — We are to be prepared to share the Word of God with others. Whether through encouragement or correction, we are to be ready to help people grow spiritually.
- Discuss each passage using the following questions, or the alternate questions below:

  What do you think this passage teaches us?

  What can we learn about God or our response to God?

  How do you think this passage relates to the statement we discussed earlier: "People need to grow in their relationship with God"?

apply that to life

- State the main lesson: *"We can help people grow to be true followers of Jesus."* Have them write the ***lesson learned*** on their Mini-Journal card.
- Discuss:
  What are some things that keep us from growing in our relationship with God?

  What is one action you can take this week to help another person grow in his or her relationship with God?
- Have them write down their specific ***action to take.*** Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.

tell someone they know

- Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- Have them write the name after ***person to tell.*** Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.

notes and preparation checklist

pray

- ☐ Pray for wisdom.
- ☐ Pray for group members.

connect

- ☐ Think of a good personal example to share.
- ☐ Decide when and how to transition from **connect** to **hear.**

notes and preparation checklist

hear

Alternate questions to ask:

- ☐ 1 Thessalonians 2:7–13

1. *What are some ways to describe the efforts Paul made to build into the lives of Christians in Thessalonica?* Note: Look for lifestyle as well as content.
2. *What are some evidences of Paul's commitment and intentionality?*

- ☐ 2 Timothy 4:2

Note: Build on the discussion of the second question above. Say, *Having seen Paul's model of ministry, let's look at his exhortation to minister.*

1. *What further zeal and intentionality do you see in this verse?*
2. *What lessons can we learn from these two passages?*

notes and preparation checklist

apply

- ☐ Decide when and how to transition from **hear** to **apply.**
- ☐ Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. Have an example in mind.
- ☐ Print Build Mini Journal.

notes and preparation checklist

tell

- ☐ Encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- ☐ Look for group members who **tell** easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.