



Discipling Disciple

# **Introduction and Session 1: Fishers of People**



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## **Introduction: Notes for Leaders**

The discipling disciple stage is for disciples of Jesus who have a desire to a) grow in their own discipleship journeys and b) be equipped in discipling others. Both of these aspects are integral and work symbiotically. As participants grow in understanding themselves in light of Jesus Christ through his interactions with Peter, this should equip them to invest in the lives of others. Similarly, through investing and discipling others, participants will grow as disciples in the act of 'stepping out the boat' (no pun intended).

## **Expected Outcomes of the Discipling Disciple Group**

The expected outcome of the group is for each person to

- Grow as disciples of Jesus (loving God with all their heart, soul and strength and , loving their neighbour as themselves)
- Develop a clearer vision for how God can use their personality, past experiences, character and gifting to shape their lives around His calling and mission.
- Learn from one another's thoughts and experiences
- Be investing in and discipling others around them
- Engaging deeply with Scripture
- If appropriate, follow on to the leadership discipleship track

## **Practicals of the Group**

- The group selection is a combination of those registering a desire to be discipled and those leaders available to prayerfully select a group. (Luke 6:12-16).
- The group size to be 3-5 including leader
- The frequency is expected to be weekly during the connect group term time
- Importance of stressing the privacy of disclosure within the group
- Leader to try and meet 1 to 1 as needed during the period.
- What is vital is that the leader is praying for the group during this time.

## **Content**

The content of the will follow a biblical story set through the discipleship journey of Peter with Jesus, from his initial commission from Jesus at the banks of the sea of Galilee, to his restored re-commission in the same place before Jesus ascends to the Father.

## **Three Thirds Structure**

As with the other discipleship groups, a Discipling Disciple session is structured around 3 distinct parts. Looking back, looking in to Scripture, and looking out.



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### Personal testimony and Personality tests

A key part of the Discipling Disciple stage will be for participants to grow in understanding themselves as they reflect on their own journey with God and how things in their life, (personality, gifts, etc.) have shaped them as disciples. Participants will be asked to complete a Myers Briggs 16 personality test - <https://www.16personalities.com/personality-types>

And also a Gallup Strengths Finder - <https://www.gallupstrengthscenter.com/product/en-us/10108/top-5-cliftonstrengths-access?category=assessments>

### Opening Session - (Friday evening – Saturday Morning – Saturday Afternoon)

A key part of the Discipling Disciple stage is for participants to spend time at the beginning, sharing their stories, building friendship, and diving in to the story crafting process together.

We suggest taking a Friday evening and a Saturday morning and afternoon to really give the time to set the tone and the culture of the sessions that will follow. It is a big time commitment but this stage is for disciples who want to dive deep into scripture and prayer, and whom are seeking genuine transformation. This takes time and is worth the investment.

- i) **Friday Evening** – Meal and Testimonies – Start by eating together; food is always a great context for discussion and openness.
- ii) **Testimonies** – ask each member of the group ahead of time to come prepared to share their story with God. As the group leader, make sure you are the first one to share as this will set the tone of openness in the group. Story should be 20 mins max, set a timer on your phone, this way there will be time to ask questions.  
The following structure should help!
  - Family background: e.g What was your childhood like? Your hopes and dreams as a child, happy memories / painful memories; was God prominent? What was your relationship with your, parents/siblings/family, like?
  - Coming to Faith: What age were you when you came to Christ? Key influences? What finally triggered you to follow Jesus?
  - Defining moments: Significant relationships (family/friends/spouse), career or career changes, other significant influences etc.

After each person has shared ask the group if anyone has any questions; this a really key part of engaging in one another's lives and helping the one sharing think more deeply about their own journey.

### Saturday Morning –

Part 1 Breakfast: chat about hopes and expectations for the time spent.

Part 2 Feedback: from Myers Brigs and Strengthsfinders report.

Part 3 Session 1: Fishers of People– Walk through each step of the Story Crafting Process together – then go into the group session.

## Saturday Afternoon

### Part 1 Lunch

Part 2 Activity – Find an activity that you can do altogether e.g go for a hike, bike ride, football, jogging, craft – anything that you can do together and chat.

Part 3 – Finish by explaining the crafting through the week process Day1,2,3,4, etc. Ask if anyone has any questions, concerns, ask about time schedules and commitments etc.

Pray for one another - and call it a day!

## Sample Opening Session Timetable

### Away Day - 'Sample programme'

| Time                              | Activity                 | Content                                                                                     | Notes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Friday</b><br>8:00pm – 10:00pm | 1.<br>Evening Meal       | <b>Who am I?</b> (testimony)<br>30mins each (Talk 20mins, Q&A's 10mins)                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Give script ahead of Weekend.</li> <li>- Leader goes first (sets tone).</li> <li>- <b>Focus:</b> Significant shaping events, current stress points and opportunities</li> <li>- <b>What's said here stays here.</b></li> </ul> |
| <b>Saturday</b><br>8:00am - 9am   | 2.<br>Breakfast          | What are you hoping for out of our time together?                                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus on growth of yourself and others</li> <li>- <b>What you sow, you reap</b></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                     |
| 9am – 10am                        | 3.<br>Session            | Feedback from Myers Briggs and Strengthfinders.<br>15mins each                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prophecy, passions and prayer</li> <li>- Review gifts, skills and experience</li> <li>- <b>What do you come with?</b></li> </ul>                                                                                               |
| 10.30am – 12:30pm                 | 4.<br>Session            | 1. Fishers of People (Luke 5: 1-11)<br>Walk through each step of the story crafting process | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Include overview of CC Discipleship</li> <li>- <b>Taster session and outline</b></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                    |
| 12:45pm – 2:00pm                  | 5.<br>Lunch              | Expectations, concerns, hopes and fears                                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discipleship agreement</li> <li>- <b>We are better together</b></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                     |
| 2:30pm – 4:30pm                   | 6.<br>Practical activity | Walk and talk?<br>i.e. Any activity that allows talking (CALLING)                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is the most likely thing to trip me up in the coming weeks?</li> <li>- Pray for each other</li> </ul>                                                                                                                     |



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|--------|------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 5:00pm | 7.<br>Drive home |  | - Ideally less than 2 hours |
|--------|------------------|--|-----------------------------|

### Story Crafting Through the Week

Part of Discipling Disciple stage will involve participants learning how to dive deep into the scriptures and craft the story for themselves. This will involve them learning a devotional story crafting process which they can follow through the week. In the 1<sup>st</sup> Session, the group leader will explain and model this process with the group so each participant is equipped to take into their week.

#### Day 1 & 2– Finding the Central Image of the Story

**Day 1** - Read the story in the scripture 3 times in 3 different translations. (e.g ESV, NIV, NLT)

**Day 2** - Speak out the scripture, and record it on your phone, then listen to the story 3 times.

Meditate on the story and note down what you think is the main point or the main image of the story.

#### Day 3 – Experiencing the Story

After reading and listening to the story and meditating on the main point or image, the next day will be given to walking through the story slowly, listening to the recorded story and putting yourself in the shoes of Peter/the disciples, contemplating on the emotions and experience of that character through the narrative. For example, in the story of Jesus calling Peter, you will imagine yourself as Peter, who has been fishing all night and caught nothing, hearing Jesus teach from his boat, obey his command to throw his net on the other side of the boat, receiving the huge catch of fish, kneeling at the feet of Jesus.

As you are doing that, you are asking yourself the questions

- i) How is Peter feeling at this moment?
- ii) How would you feel if that was you?

This process should be done prayerfully in conversation and communion with the Holy Spirit asking Him to guide you and to reveal things to your heart and mind. You will want to note down any things that come to light for you.

#### Day 4 – Research the Story

At this point, after reading and internalising the story we can begin to ask questions concerning the contextual/literary gaps in our comprehension of the story which we can research with the help of study notes/commentaries etc. These materials will provide some studies notes on some of the main points where a bit of information relating to (language meaning/ phrasing/ literary context and design patterns/geography/historical context etc.) can serve to really aid one's comprehension of the story as a whole. We have also provided a list of commentaries that have been used in the crafting of these stories and their accompanying notes to go deeper with.



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## Day 5 – Group Session

### Read the Scripture, Act out the story, Re-tell the story, Questions.

The hope is that when the group gathers, through this crafting process each participant has engaged with story at a deep level. It is helpful to complete this process together, so the middle section of the session will include telling the story and then getting the group to act out the story. (This may feel odd for a few, but even if all the group does is physically act out the movements of the story, engaging the whole body really helps internalise the story). After acting out the story, it is helpful then for each person to retell the story before moving in to the questions section.

### Part 1( Hospitality/Catching up/Review/)

identity

worship

community

Spend time catching up with everyone's week – consider that eating food together can be a good context of building friendship and trust in the group.

After everyone has shared a bit, ask how everyone found crafting and telling the story.

This is the time for caring for those in your group, hearing about what's going on in their lives, asking questions, listening, and praying

### Part 2 (Engaging in the Scripture)

identity

mission

worship

### Fishers of People (Luke 5: 1-11)

- i) **Ask each person to read the passage in a different version (E.G ESV, NLT, NIV)**
- i) **Act out the Story** - Talk about the characters in the story and choose them. If you know anything about the characters, talk about the person.
  - a. Determine where the scenes will be acted out and the spacing of the story.
  - b. Act out the story with one person narrating.
  - c. Act out the story at least one more time, with people switching parts. This time, stop at crucial points in the story, and certainly at the main action(s) of the story that illustrate the main point of the story. Each time you stop consider how each of the characters must have felt. Describe the scene to each other a bit more, describing what everyone in the scene is doing.
  - d. If you forget parts of the story, the entire group can work together to remember what happened next, or what was said.
- ii) **Ask the questions**
  - 1. What do you like about this story/What stood out to you?
  - 2. What bothered you about this story?
  - 3. What does this story show you about God?
  - 4. What does this story show you about people?



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### **Part 3 (application, response and commission)**

**identity**

**worship**

**mission**

Ask the remaining questions:

5. If this story is true, what does this story mean for your life? How will you live your life differently having learned this story? What is God showing you? What does this story show us about what it means to be a follower of Jesus? How will you respond? (It is really important to give time in this section for reflection and response. Don't settle for superficial answers, hopefully as you model honesty and vulnerability this will be imbibed by the group. However, you may want to help people go deeper, by asking some follow on questions. Don't be afraid to do so.)
6. Who are you able to tell this story to?

**iii) Now, Get each person to tell the story they have crafted**

Encourage everyone in the group to think of people in their life whom they could retell the story to; mention that at the next session we will recap the story and ask who remembered to tell the story. Again it is helpful to emphasise the reason for going and telling the story ourselves is that it is the best way for us to remember the story and we are learning these stories to share the gospel with others.

### **Responding in Prayer and Worship**

Make sure time is guarded to pray and worship (at least 20 mins). This time is key for responding to God after a deep dive into his word. This should be led sensitively, being aware of who is in the room and what has come out in each session.

This time can be led in a variety of ways,

- i) Listening to worship music
- ii) Singing
- iii) Sharing the Lord's Supper
- iv) Silence
- v) Each person sharing a psalm or a verse of scripture
- vi) Each person thanking God
- vii) Praying for one another: bringing words of encouragement and prophecy

### **A Note on Storying**

In our discipleship materials, we have chosen to craft the stories of scripture into an oral format to be learnt, internalised and re-told. This process is done carefully and seeks to faithfully represent the heart, meaning and narrative of the biblical text in spoken form. We have done this for the following reasons;

- 1.) The spoken story format requires those in the group to internalise the scripture to some degree. We believe that scripture tells God's unified story that leads to the person of Jesus. God invites us to encounter and respond to him through the hearing, believing and living out in accordance with the truth of his story and the



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good news that it tells. The process of learning and retelling the story requires and allows the scripture to 'live within us', to shape and guide us, to convict and challenge, to comfort and encourage us. Storying is not the only way this can happen of course, but we have found it to be a especially helpful and intuitive way of forming our worldview to that of Jesus Christ through the internalising the story that reveals him.

- 2.) Once this story is learnt and internalised, those in the group have it to share with others. This can be especially engaging when sharing with people with who don't know Jesus, and even more so in age of authenticity. By sharing a story that is 'living within you', you are imparting to someone something that has changed and/or encouraged you, and therefore it comes with more weight and significance.

### How to lead a group in internalizing and retelling the story

These are a few creative ways that people can delve into the Story. Use discernment as to what would best help your group and what they'd be comfortable with.

1. Retell the story: as a group, each person tells as much as they can remember and passes on to someone else. Or.... split up the group in pairs, get each pair to tell the story to each other
2. Scenes: Ask the group to think of the story in scenes like a movie, ask each person what is scene 1, 2 etc. Try and see if you can get people to visualise each scene, the geography, the movements, which characters are doing what etc. This will help internalise the story.
3. Feeling the emotions of the story: Retell the story in sections, or re-read the story in sections b. For each section, talk about the feelings of each character in that section...
4. Being a character in the story: ask each person which character they are in the story, as well as helping to remember the story, this will also help your group engage personally with the story from God's word.
5. Art: Draw a picture of the key theme or key feeling in the story/passage.
6. Music: Listen to a song related to the key theme of the passage and draw your feelings about it/or about God. (Art and Music are especially helpful mediums for people who may struggle with oral learning, and appreciate creative outlets)
7. Act out the story: Get everyone to act out the story as a group





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### Day 4 Study Notes for Fishers of People Session (Luke 5; 1-11) – to be sent out to the group

#### **What does the term ‘sinful man’ mean in the context of Simon- Peter’s response to Jesus’ miracle of abundant fish?**

For some readers, one thing that can jump of the page as striking in this story is why Simon- Peter’s response to Jesus’ miracle is one of confessing his ‘sinfulness’ and therefore asking Jesus to get away from him.

The word Peter uses to describe himself is the word ἁμαρτωλός – hamartolos – sinful/sinner, one whose life is marked by sin –hamartia. This term, and its Hebrew counterpart *Khata*, in its most basic sense means ‘missing the mark’ or ‘to miss your way’, ie ‘to fail’, (See Judges 20:16, Proverbs 19:2).

Moving from this basic sense, in the biblical context of human beings created in God’s image, called to live faithfully to him and to each other. Sin is the failure - to live as God would have us live as his creatures, bearing his image. To sin is therefore to act in a way that is contrary to the goal of what humans were made to be and do. The summary of this ideal goal for the Jewish people was found in the Torah, which Jesus summarized famously as loving God and loving your neighbour.

Peter’s confession that he is a sinful man is, amongst other things, an acknowledgement that in response to Jesus and this miraculous provision of fish, he is painfully aware that he himself has comprised who he is meant to be. Some interpreters have sought identify a specific sin that relates to Peter’s confession i.e distrust of Jesus’ command or criminality or practising a despised trade<sup>1</sup>. However, the issue with this view is it remains fairly speculative as there could be many reasons why Peter felt himself to have missed the mark, to be compromised. In which case it is enough to say that Peter’s confession is a realisation of the qualitative difference between himself and Jesus recoils in the presence of one who is totally other, what the bible calls ‘holy’. Joel Green in his commentary writes ‘this interpretation, leaves room for the development of a more definitive understanding of a “sinner” (which Luke will use to indicate people who either recognize themselves in need of divine redemption or who are ostracised by others and so stand in the greatest need of gracious intervention), while at the same time highlighting Jesus identity as one who crosses boundaries to bring good news to the unworthy.’<sup>2</sup>

**Further Resources on the Story: Kenneth E. Bailey: *Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes – The Call of Peter* – pp135-146 (this book offers insights from a middle eastern context)**

**Joel B. Green: *The Gospel of Luke – NICNT* – pp230-235 (super helpful verse by verse commentary, I would recommend if you could only read one, read this one)**

**David Lyle Jeffrey – *Luke – Brazos Theological Commentary* – p77-79 (overview of theological themes in the story)**

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<sup>1</sup> See Neale (*None but Sinners*, 69-75)

<sup>2</sup> Joel B. Green, *The Gospel of Luke: NICNT*, (1997) p234



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### Feedback from Group Leader

In our vision for discipleship, we have identified 4 key ingredients to healthy and growing disciples. As you are leading your group, for each session, make some notes under each heading for how the group is faring in each of these areas.

**identity**

**worship**

**community**

**mission**