

SESSION 5 LEAD IT: COLLEGE AGE



GOALS

Through this session students will...

- Track how well the apostles understood and applied Jesus' teachings
- Consider their own level of understanding of Jesus' teaching
- Begin to understand the importance of the Spirit's work in the lives of Jesus' followers

MATERIALS: Group

- Whiteboard and markers

MATERIALS: Each Student

- Student journal pages for Session 5
- Session 5 Scripture sheets
- A Bible and pen (Students should bring their own Bibles. You can decide if you would like them to use a physical Bible or a Bible app like, "YouVersion.")
- Colored pencils

Leading Up to the Session:

This week marks the halfway point of the study. You may want to use this milestone to check in with your group to see how they are processing the material, to evaluate how well they are making the jump from the conceptual to the practical, to see how they've applied their learning to their everyday lives. This week's session will have your students checking in on the disciples to determine how well they applied what Jesus had taught them. Perhaps having individual conversations this week about how they are doing with the application of the material might help them make a connection to the material in this session.

Keep your prayer team up to speed on your group's progress. Since this session is the halfway point, make sure you let them know how much you appreciate their commitment and dedication to your group, and share any spiritual victories you have experienced.

Prayer

Begin your time together in prayer. If you feel your group is up to the task perhaps even consider involving a few of your students in that prayer. You can give them some specific topics to pray for including understanding and wisdom as you proceed through the session, thankfulness for what God has been doing in the group, for the Holy Spirit to empower your group to accomplish the mission God has called you to.

Review

As always, start with a review regarding the previous sessions.

- How did the apostles respond when Jesus asked them to follow Him?
- What were the excuses of the "prospective followers"?
- What were some of the excuses we use today when hesitating to follow Jesus?

DIGGING IN

Share in your own words:

Now that we've learned the origins of the apostles, we're going to track their walk with Christ just as we tracked Israel's relationship with God in Session 3. As we read through some Scriptures today we will be watching to see how well the Apostles "got it" when it came to Jesus' teachings.

- Assign one or more passages to each student and invite students to read from their Bibles the passage(s) on their own.
- After they've read their Scripture, ask them to choose a word from the list noted on their journal pages that best describes the apostles in each specific passage they've read. Encourage them to come up with their own word if none on the list fit.
- After a few minutes have students review the events of their passage and share their take on the interaction between Jesus and the apostles.
- Ask students to share the word that they chose from the list to describe the situation.

1. Luke 9:49-50
2. Luke 9:51-56
3. Luke 17:3-5
4. Matthew 8:23-27
5. Matthew 16:5-12

6. Matthew 17:14-20
7. Matthew 19:13-14
8. Matthew 20:20-24
9. Luke 22:24
10. Mark 16:9-14

Ignorant (Didn't understand)
Discerning (understanding)
Unbelieving
Inquisitive

Jealous
Faithless
Power Hungry

TAKING IT INWARD

After you've evaluated each Scripture passage, take some time to discuss the questions below.

Considering everything you have just processed, how would you describe the apostles' understanding of Jesus' teaching overall?

What did they seem to consistently lack?

Which of these situations still play out in Christ followers today?

To help students see these situations in today's terms you might share that these situations fit into broader categories such as: lack of faith, lack of understanding, power struggles, pride.

With which of these scenes do you most identify?

DIGGING DEEPER

Share in your own words:

Imagine that you were going away for a long time. When you're saying your good-byes to the people closest to you (family, friends, boyfriend/girlfriend), what types of things would you share with them? Would you discuss important things, or things like the weather, sports scores, and gossip?

Draw out the thought that when we leave someone we care about, we discuss important things. In a similar way Jesus took the opportunity to have a lengthy discussion with His disciples in the week before His death; this conversation revealed a great deal about the confidence that He had in those men. Obviously Jesus' confidence wasn't in the fact that He had assembled an all-star team of followers, but rather, His confidence was in the fact that the "gift" His Father was about to send (The Holy Spirit) would change these men in ways they couldn't have imagined.

Instruct your group to read through the passages noted on their Scripture sheets under Digging Deeper. Invite students to mark any references to the Holy Spirit in these passages, including any pronouns and any titles.

After a few minutes of exploring the passages, ask students to look at what they marked and tell you two types of information, noted below. Write their responses on your board and invite students to write them in the space provided on their journal pages. Your chart will look similar to below, but don't worry if it's not as detailed.

1. What titles did you find for the Holy Spirit?
2. What are the top two actions of the Holy Spirit you'd like in your life?

The Holy Spirit

| Scripture | Titles/Descriptions |
|---------------|--|
| John 14:15-17 | TITLE: Advocate TITLE: Spirit of Truth -help you -be with you forever -He lives with you -will be in you |
| John 14:25-26 | TITLE: Advocate TITLE: Holy Spirit -Father will send -will teach -will remind you |
| John 15:26-27 | TITLE: Advocate TITLE: Spirit of Truth -will testify about Jesus |
| John 16:6-15 | TITLE: Advocate TITLE: Spirit of Truth -Jesus will send -Will prove world is wrong about sin, R, J -will guide into all truth -Not speak on his own -Will speak only what he hears -Tell what is yet to come -Will glorify Jesus -Will receive from Jesus what he will make known to us |
| Luke 24:46-49 | -Father has promised -Will cloth with power from on high |
| Acts 1:4-8 | -Gift the Father has promised -Will baptize -Will give power -Will come on them |

TAKING IT INWARD

After you have talked through the list of descriptions about the Holy Spirit in the activity above, ask students to individually look over the list that you have compiled. As students look over the list, challenge them to circle a couple characteristics of the Holy Spirit that they would like to have working within their own lives. Then have them highlight or underline any characteristics of the Spirit that they may have personally experienced.

Ask for a couple volunteers who might like to share which traits they'd like to have working in their lives and which they've experienced. Then as a group talk through the following questions.

What did Jesus communicate to His followers (and us) about the importance of The Holy Spirit?

Do you often think about the role of the Holy Spirit in your life, or do you view the Spirit as more of the "silent partner" in the Trinity?

Take a moment to consider your life with and without the Holy Spirit's work within you. What would your life be like without the Spirit?

Why is the work of the Holy Spirit so vital today?

PUTTING INTO PRACTICE

Reinforce the things you have discussed with your group by closing with the following questions. Give students a moment to write their response on their journal page before discussing each question.

Based upon what you have learned about the Holy Spirit from Jesus in this session...

What should our response to the Holy Spirit be as individuals? How can we each respond to and receive power from the Holy Spirit?

What should our response to the Holy Spirit be as a group? How can we as a group receive power from the Holy Spirit?

What are some specific characteristics of the Spirit that might aid you in what God has called you to do?

What are some specific characteristics of the Spirit that might aid us in what God has called our group to do?

After you have allowed time for your group to work through their responses to these questions, challenge students to commit to praying for the Holy Spirit to work through the group and empower you with the abilities and skills necessary to accomplish the mission that God has called you to. Since prayer is the conduit for the Holy Spirit's work in our lives, encourage students to pray daily throughout the week. Below are a few ideas that you can implement to remind students to pray. Suggest any of these but also be sure to tap into the creativity of your students. They may have better ideas. And be sure to share them with us at facebook.com/InWordResources.

- **Decide on a specific time each day for everyone to pray. Make the time easy to remember like 4:04 p.m. (encourage students to set alarms on their cell phones).**
- **Send out a group text reminding students to pray. There are a host of apps that can assist you in this. (Apps like GroupMe can make this type of communication easy).**
- **Give students a sticker they can affix to their cell phone. Each time they look at their phones they will be reminded to pray.**
- **Give students a prayer journal (or create one) and ask them to record their prayers for an entire week. This could be the beginning of a spiritual discipline that they carry with them for a lifetime.**

After choosing an idea (or ideas) to implement, invite students to write the plan on their journal pages under Putting Into Practice.

Close out your time by reminding students of the power of prayer. Remind them that no spiritual movement or mission has ever succeeded without people surrounding it in prayer. Encourage them to see how important prayer is to the mission that God has called your group to.

Kick off a week of prayer by asking students to pray as you end your time together. If time allows you can encourage each student to say a prayer, even if it is only a few words. Remind them that prayer doesn't have to be eloquent to be effective. Sometimes the simplest prayers can be the most meaningful and effective!