

LEADERS

Best Practices:

1. Always **consecrate yourself to God** and have a clean heart before you try to disciple others—success relies on God.
2. Disciple others to **rely on the Bible and Holy Spirit, not you**—then they can grow and be disciple-makers with or without you.
3. **Ask questions, do not answer them**—this is more effective than lecturing for both disciple-making and learning.
4. Try to **involve everyone**—everyone learns more when they participate.
5. **Keep leadership as simple as possible** and rotate leaders.



SUMMARY

Looking BACK (Part 1):

- Welcome and worship
- Care and commitment
- Purpose

Looking UP (Part 2):

- Pray for the Holy Spirit
- Read, tell, and re-read the Bible story
- Ask the four questions:
 1. **What does this say about God?**
 2. **What does this say about people and their choices?**
 3. **What will I choose to do to love and obey God?**
 4. **With whom will I share this story?**

Looking AHEAD (Part 3):

- Record your commitment
- Prepare to share the story
- Prayer for power, opportunity & boldness

Whether people are learning the stories of God for the first time or have a life-time of Biblical learning, Missional Care Groups can challenge everyone to go deeper.

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"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" – 2 Tim 3:16-17 (NKJV).

Everywhere in the world, God is powerfully **restoring His image** in those who are willing to open their lives to Him in faith. He is restoring people back to what He created them to be so they can be **restored into His Kingdom** when Jesus returns!

God calls us to join in His mission by being personally restored through God's power and grace (**restoration**), by revealing God and His love to others through our personal experience (**witness**), and by showing others what we have learned about connecting to and being restored by God (**discipleship**).

In the **Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD)**, our theme is "**Seek, Save, and Disciple.**" As we are restored by God, we are being saved. As we reveal God through our lives to others, we seek and discover those who are opening to the Holy Spirit so they can be saved. When we teach people to connect to God and to be restored by Him, we teach people to be God's disciples.

This resource is a modification of concepts and methods from: Smith, Steve and Kai, Ying. 2011. *T4T: A Discipleship Re-Revolution*. Monument, CO: WIGTake Resources, LLC.

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Missional CARE GROUP

WELCOME

Whether you are discipling non-Christian friends and neighbours, conducting ground work before or after public evangelism, wanting to enhance family worship/Prayer Meeting/Sabbath School, or are unable to attend a regular church because of quarantine, you need a power-filled solution. You are about to experience one of the best types of care groups for mission-focussed restoration, witness, and discipleship: the Missional Care Group.

Missional Care Groups build a foundational knowledge of God through the stories of the Bible. They are excellent to disciple your social network from a Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Animist, or non-religious background. Of course they are also great for Christians.

VALUES

- simple:** easy to learn and do
- relational:** personal focus
- intentional:** each piece has a very important purpose
- reproducible:** easy to learn
- sustainable:** only requires Bibles and people!
- restorative:** encourages growth and witness
- dependant on God:** through Bible, prayer & Holy Spirit

DAILY WITNESS

Continue to the next step only if people are open.

1. Greet/be friendly
2. Introduce a spiritual element in conversation
3. Tell a personal story of experiencing God
4. Tell a story from Bible: use the four questions
5. Specific prayer for God's action in Jesus name
6. Meet in a few days to hear results & repeat steps 1-5
7. Offer to study stories in their home—they can invite their social network!

LOOKING BACK

Part 1: (up to 15 minutes)

1. **Step 1: Welcome and worship**—spend time to know people: learn each other's names, strengthen friendships, and turn people's thoughts to God (through activities such as singing).
2. **Step 2: Care and commitment**—review the commitments written down from the previous meeting (Missional questions three and four). When finished, break into groups of 2-3 to pray: praise God for successes and pray for His power for where people still need to grow. (**Leaders:** *the very first meeting, you can simply pray with each other as you have nothing to review yet.*)
3. **Step 3: Purpose**—remind each other why we are here: to see God; to learn to connect to God through prayer, Bible stories, and the power of the Holy Spirit; to be restored back to what God created us to be; and to prepare to share God with others.

LOOKING UP

Part 2: (up to 45 minutes)

1. **Step 1: Prayer for the Holy Spirit** (up to 3 minutes). Say: "Whenever we read the Bible, we **need the power of God's Holy Spirit** to lead us into truth, teach us, convict us, and change us. Let's begin by praying for the Holy Spirit." (**Leaders:** *Either lead the prayer or ask someone ahead of time to pray.*)
2. **Step 2: Read, tell and re-read the Bible story** (up to 12 minutes)—Say: "Now that we have asked for the Holy Spirit, we want to **see God** through this story."
 - A. **Read.** Say: "We will now **read** the story found in _____. I will read verse ___, the next person will read verse ___, and so on around the circle until we are finished. Please listen carefully because I will ask for a volunteer to tell the story from memory when we are finished. (**Leaders:** *read through the story as a group. See the "Helpful Hints" if you need ideas of what story to read or for what to do if people cannot read.*)
 - B. **Tell.** Say: "Please close your Bibles. We will try to remember this story together. Is there a volunteer to **tell** this story from memory? The rest of us will listen carefully and add in any parts that were missed at the end." (**Leaders:** *if there is no volunteer, pick someone. When they are finished, say: "Thank you, that was very good. Did anyone notice any part that was missed or different from what we read?" Move on when there are no further comments.*)
 - C. **Re-read.** Say: "We will now **re-read** the story to ensure it is firmly in our minds. I will read the story. You can close your eyes and listen or follow along in your Bible. See if there is



any detail of the story we missed." (**Leaders:** *after re-reading the story, say: "Did anyone notice anything we missed before?" Move on when there are no further comments.*)

3. **Step 3: Ask the Four Questions** (up to 30 minutes)—Say: "Now that this story is firmly in our minds, let us discuss this story."
 - A. **Question 1: What does this story say about God?** Say: "First, we want to see God in this story. What does this story say about God?" (**Leaders:** *after someone shares say, "Thank you, that was very good. What else does this story say about God?" Move on when there are no further comments.*)
 - B. **Question 2: What does this story say about people and their choices?** Say: "Now that we have seen God, we want to see the people in this story and their choices—good and bad. What does this story say about people and their choices? Who are the people? What choices do they make? What about today?" (**Leaders:** *after one person shares say, "Thank you, that was very good. What else does this story say about people and their choices?" Move on when there are no further comments.*)
 - C. **Question 3: What will I choose to do to love and obey God?** Say: "Now that we have seen people's good and bad choices, our third question is: What will I choose to do to love and obey God? Please take one minute to pray silently and consider what the Holy Spirit is convicting you to do to love and obey God more fully. Write your answer on your paper. Then, we will share together: 'I will...'" (**Leaders:** *when everyone is ready, go around the circle and have people share what they have written down.*)

- D. **Question 4: With whom will I share this story?** Say: "When we see or experience God, God wants us to share that experience with others. Our final question is, with whom will I share this story? Please take one more minute in silence to ask God to inspire you with the names of people who need to hear this story. Write down the names of seven people who you can share this story with this week. Then we will go around the circle and share the names." (**Leaders:** *when people are ready, go around the circle and have people share what they have written down. Remind people that they can share face-to-face or by phone, e-mail, social media, etc..*)

LOOKING AHEAD

Part 3: (up to 15 minutes)

1. **Step 1: Record our commitment**—(**Leaders:** *we have already recorded our commitments which we have made in Missional questions three and four. This enables us to remember and support each other. If you don't check, people often forget.*)
2. **Step 2: Prepare the story** (up to 10 minutes)—Say: "For us to be prepared to share this story, we need it in our hearts and minds. Before we go, we need to practice this story. Let's divide into groups of two to practice the story. Test each other until each one can share the story accurately from memory." (**Leaders:** *we know we are ready when we can tell the story accurately.*)
3. **Step 3: Prayer for power, opportunity, and boldness**—Say: "We cannot change from our hearts or help others to see God without the power of God working in us. To close our group, we will pray for three things: 1) the power of God to restore us this week and help us to do what we were convicted to commit to, 2) the opportunity to share this Bible story with others this week, and 3) boldness to reveal God without fear and in a way people will listen. Let us pray." (**Leaders:** *Decide how you will pray as a group and close with prayer. Congratulations! You finished your first Missional Care Group!*)

HELPFUL HINTS

1. **What to Study:** Start with a Gospel, continue in Acts, go back to the Old Testament stories. Once experienced, you can use the four questions with any Bible passage—even if there is no story. Simply add one question at the beginning: "Is there anything in this passage you do not understand?"
2. **Oral Learners:** Replace "read, tell, re-read" with, "listen, tell, re-listen"—start with someone telling the story instead of reading.
3. **Discipling Challenging Groups:** For people groups such as Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, non-religious, etc., contact SSD Adventist Mission for a few extra steps: mission@ssd.org