

Group Leader's Study Guide

the
one

reaching the lost with
the love of Christ

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September 2021

Welcome
to



...a Bible study about
reaching the One(s) in our lives
- lost people -
who are living far from God and are
unaware of the rich love He has for each of us.

Please take note!

This is **Not** a series
about taking someone on as our
“church project!”

It's about passionately sharing
the love and message of Jesus,
especially with
the One(s) in our lives.

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*"The Lord isn't slow to do what He promised,
as some people think.*

Rather, He is patient for your sake.

***He doesn't want to destroy anyone
but wants all people to have an opportunity
to turn to Him***

and change the way they think and act."

2 Peter 3:9 (GW)

As you gather each week with your group, you will have the opportunity to: 1) watch a video, 2) discuss and respond to what you are learning, and 3) pray together. You will need access to a television and DVD player, or a way to stream the video, for each session. (The **streaming link is: harvestchurch4u.org/theone**.) This leader guide along with the teaching videos will be your primary tools for leading each group session.

Leader Tips

1. Relax. Breathe. You can do this. Have fun!
2. Invite some friends to join you for this 4-week study.
3. Serve a few snacks – food helps break the ice. Share the responsibility for offering snacks each week.
4. Prepare and pray for each week's time together.
5. Maintain a healthy atmosphere. Don't let anyone (even you) dominate the discussion or gossip. If that starts to happen, gently redirect the conversation.
6. Don't be intimidated by silence. It may be a sign people are thinking about how to respond. Give them a minute.
7. If questions come up that you can't answer, just be honest. Say something like *"I don't know; let me check that out."* Remember, we're here to help. Give us a call at 478.923.8822.

Leader Preparation

Here is a brief overview of how each session in this booklet is laid out. **In advance**, be sure to: 1) read this section, as well as each session outline; 2) and, review each video segment. Feel free to adapt or modify the format to meet the specific needs of your group.

- ❖ **Ice Breaker** (5 minutes-10 minutes): Each session includes a brief icebreaker to introduce the topic.
- ❖ **Video** (10-12 minutes): Next, watch the week's video segment together.
- ❖ **Group Discussion** (30-35 minutes): After watching the video, use the discussion points and questions to facilitate group discussion. If you have a larger group, **there may be more questions than you have time to include. Before beginning, select the ones you want to cover.** Then, reflect on each question and make some notes to share during your discussion time. Remember, your role is not to have all of the answers but to encourage discussion and sharing.
- ❖ **Call to Action and Prayer** (3-5 minutes): Invite participants to put what they have learned into practice by praying for people in their lives who might be lost or far from God. Then close by leading your group in prayer. Invite the group to name prayer requests. After the prayer, remind the group to pray for one another and their Ones throughout the week.

Ice-Breaker (5-10 minutes)

- ❖ When have you lost something and torn your house apart trying to find it? Describe.
- ❖ Have you ever been lost? Tell us about it.

Video (10-15 minutes)

Play the Week 1 video - either on DVD, or stream it online.

Group Discussion (30-35 minutes)

Beforehand, select the discussion questions you may want to cover; and, then place a check mark beside each one.

- ☐ In the story of Jill and her son Drew, Jill said, *"When you are really searching for something, pride can't determine what you do."* How do you think pride keeps us from reaching out to those who are lost or far from God?
- ☐ In the video, Jim said, *"You are the one...you are the object of great worth."* Why do you think understanding how much God loves you is so important as we talk about inviting those who are lost or far from God to church?
- ☐ Read Romans 5:8. How would you paraphrase this verse in your own words?

- ☐ Would you say it is easy or difficult for you to believe that God loves you (and always has)? Explain.
- ☐ Have your group silently read John 3:16 and personalize it by inserting their names in place of the pronouns.
- ☐ Have you ever struggled to believe that you are precious to God? Describe.
- ☐ Why is it so easy to imagine God's depth of love for others and forget that this same depth of love is available to us?
- ☐ Did anything stand out to you as we studied today? If so, what?
- ☐ Did you have any new insights about being the One?

Call to Action and Prayer (5 minutes)

Invite participants to write in a journal, or their Bibles, the name of One person whom they desperately want to have experience the grace and love of Jesus.

Encourage them to pray for this person every single day... asking God to go after him/her; and, asking God for the right words or actions that will point him/her toward God.

Take prayer requests and lead the group in prayer.

Ice-Breaker (5-10 minutes)

Ask your group to think of three words that describe sheep. Then ask:

- ❖ What words came to mind and why do you think you chose those descriptions?
- ❖ What do we know about how sheep are referred to in the Bible?

Video (10-15 minutes)

Play the Week 2 video - either on DVD, or stream it online.

Group Discussion (30-35 minutes)

Beforehand, select the discussion questions you may want to cover; and, then place a check mark beside each one.

- ☐ In the video, Anthony shares how Jesus not only saved his marriage but also was the key to everything else in his life falling into place. How has a relationship with Jesus made a difference in your life story? How does your life story help you share with others about the peace and joy that come from a relationship with God?
- ☐ How can you get into the community or into the lives

of others to earn the privilege of sharing your faith?

- ☐ Read Matthew 28:19-20. What is Jesus calling us to do in these verses?
- ☐ What does the phrase *“found people, find people”* mean? Why is this an important task for all believers?
- ☐ Read Luke 15:1-17. How does the parable of the lost sheep speak to both the sinners who knew they were sinners and the religious folks? What is Jesus’ message to both groups?
- ☐ Today, do you see yourself as more of a sheep or more of a religious folk? What is Jesus saying to you?
- ☐ How can we help Jesus find the ones who are lost?
- ☐ How often do you invite someone to worship or church events? You can be honest.
- ☐ Do you find it easy or difficult to invite others to worship? Why?
- ☐ How can you build or enhance a culture of invitation and welcome at your church?

Call to Action and Prayer (5 minutes)

Close your time together by asking for prayer requests and leading the group in prayer.

Remind participants to pray for one another and their “Ones” throughout the week.

Ice-Breaker (5-10 minutes)

- ❖ Did you, or do you, have a collection of treasures you have collected in your life? Maybe baseball cards, or coins, or stickers?

Video (10-15 minutes)

Play the Week 3 video either on DVD or stream it online.

Group Discussion (30-35 minutes)

Beforehand, select the discussion questions you may want to cover; and, then place a check mark beside each one.

- ☐ Jim talked about “*being committed, maybe obsessed a bit*” with reaching the One in your life. What would that look like for you?
- ☐ Jen said, “*Sometimes we think we have to make the gospel of Christ attractive to people so they’ll be interested.*” Why do you think we sometimes believe this?
- ☐ Jen said, “*We have to be willing to be inconvenienced to share Christ.*” What do you think this means?
- ☐ Read 1 Timothy 6:21. What is the most important thing in your life?

- ☐ Have you ever had a season when you felt like you were missing the most important thing?
- ☐ What do we miss out on when we aren't in relationship with God?
- ☐ Read 2 Peter 3:9. What does this verse tell us about God's heart for the lost?
- ☐ If we passionately believed that Jesus died for every single person, how would that affect our daily lives?
- ☐ Do you think you would be the one to leave the ninety-nine to find the one, or perhaps, be one who stays up all night searching for a treasure?
- ☐ How do we begin to grow that kind of passion for lost things in our hearts?

Call to Action and Prayer (5 minutes)

Close your time together by asking for prayer requests and leading the group in prayer.

Remind participants to pray for one another and their "Ones" throughout the week.

Ice-Breaker (5-10 minutes)

- ❖ What type of child were you growing up (e.g., a wild child, parent pleaser, quiet)?

Video (10-15 minutes)

Play the Week 4 video either on DVD or stream it online.

Group Discussion (30-35 minutes)

Beforehand, select the discussion questions you may want to cover; and, then place a check mark beside each one.

- ☐ How does Jim's and Jen's explanation of the father's actions in the parable influence or change your perception of God's love for you? For lost people?
- ☐ In the video, Jen encourages believers to adopt the attitude of the father running after the lost son. Who in your life has modeled this passion for reaching those who are far from god? Who has reached out to you personally to tell you about God's love and forgiveness through Christ?
- ☐ Have you ever felt like you were someone's project? What did that feel like?
- ☐ Why is sincerity so important as we share our faith?

- ☐ What are some examples, from your own life, of sincere relationships that pointed you in the direction of God?
- ☐ What do you see about the attitude of the Pharisees as they question Jesus?
- ☐ Would you say that you are quicker to judge or to empathize? Explain.
- ☐ Jesus always led with compassion. How does one grow compassion for others in their hearts?
- ☐ In the parable of the lost son, what does the father teach us about the heart of God toward lost people?
- ☐ Have you ever thought of the Great Commandment - to love God and love others - as an invitation to run toward the lost? What do you think about that invitation?

Call to Action and Prayer (5 minutes)

Close your time together by asking for prayer requests and leading the group in prayer.

Remind participants to pray for one another and their "Ones" throughout the week.

the one

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Who is
“the One”
in your life
who needs to know
God’s love?