

GOALS FOR THE GROUP LEADER

1. Help the group members to accept that all Christians are called to perform some task in God's kingdom, that is, to be a worker
2. They have discussed the various tasks in God's kingdom and commit themselves to get involved

I. WORSHIP (14 min.)

1. Prayer

Pray that God will guide us through his Spirit; that we will be aware of his presence and that we will listen to what he says.

2. Meditation

Worship is to dedicate yourself to God's promises

Theme: To claim God's promises

Read the Bible verses mentioned below and the explanation. Or explain the verses in your own words.

➤ Assurance of salvation.

1 John 5:11-13

¹¹ And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

God promises that you will forever belong to him.

➤ Assurance of answered prayer.

John 16:24

²⁴ Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

Jesus promises that your prayers are heard and will be answered.

➤ Assurance of victory.

1 Corinthians 10:13

¹³ No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

God promises that you will never be tempted beyond what you can bear and that he will always provide a way out of the temptation.

➤ Assurance of forgiveness and restoration.

1 John 1:9

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

The Bible promises forgiveness of sins and purification from all unrighteousness.

➤ Assurance of God's guidance.

Proverbs 3:5-6

⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight (or: he will direct your paths).

The Bible promises that God will lead you in the way you ought to go.

3. Worship

Let everyone in the group take turns to worship God (in one or two sentences). Thank God for any specific promise he has fulfilled in your life.

II. INTRODUCTION THEME (1 min.)

The theme for this meeting is: Workers

Read or explain in your own words.

1. The great shortage of workers

The great need of the hour throughout the history of the world has been the great shortage of workers in God's kingdom. Jesus says: "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few" (Matthew 9:37)!

2. Definition of a worker

A worker is a disciple who assumes responsibility for his own spiritual growth and who wins the lost and/or builds up the saved. There is a great variety of workers in God's kingdom.

III. SHARING OF QUIET TIMES (30 min.)

Let everyone in the small group take a turn to share (or read) what he has learned from one of the assigned quiet times.

Theme: Workers

- Day 1 John 10:11-16
Christ is the Shepherd of his flock (the Church)
- Day 2 Ephesians 1:17-23
Christ is the Head of his Body (the Church)
- Day 3 Exodus 18:17-23
The Old Testament prerequisites for a leader
- Day 4^{BS} 1 Timothy 3:1-7
The New Testament prerequisites for a leader (cf. also verse 14-15)
- Day 5 Titus 1:5-9
The New Testament prerequisites for a leader
- Day 6 1 Peter 5:1-7
The tasks and attitudes of a leader
- Day 7 Matthew 20:20-28
A leader is not a ruler with a position, but a servant (cf. Also Matthew 23:8-14)
- Day 8 Titus 2:1-8
A leader teaches what is in accord with sound doctrine
- Day 9 Acts 20:17-31
The example of Paul as a servant leader
- Day 10 3 John 1:5-11
An example of good and bad leaders in the congregation

IV. ADDITIONAL SHARING (15 min.)

Part IV is optional.
If after sharing quiet times there is still time left over, the following may serve as subjects for conversation.

1. Discussing the study

Discuss the study with reference to the questions mentioned below:

Theme: Spiritual multiplication

- What is a worker?
- How did spiritual multiplication take place during the Old Testament period?
- How did Jesus practise spiritual multiplication?
- How did spiritual multiplication take place during the New Testament period?
- In what way is the ministry of the sowers and the reapers inseparable?
- How are new congregations (house churches) being multiplied?
- What is the key to spiritual multiplication?

2. Commitment

Let the group members consider the following question and record their answer:

- “To which task will you give yourself in God’s kingdom during the coming year?”

Discuss your preference with your small group and with an elder in the congregation.

3. Personal sharing

Discuss personal growth and commitment. Who would like to share a difficulty or blessing in his/her personal life? What are your thoughts or feelings?

V. MEMORISATION (5 min.)

1. Review of previous Bible verses

Let pairs of group members review each other’s previously memorised Bible verses (the last memorised Bible verse or the last 5 memorised Bible verses).

2. Memorisation of the new Bible verse

WORKERS Ephesians 4:12

...to prepare (equip) God’s people
for works of service,
so that the Body of Christ
may be built up
Ephesians 4:12 (NIV)

3. Review of the Bible books

All 27 books of the New Testament

The 4 Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

The 1 Historical book: Acts

The 13 Letters of Paul: Romans, 1&2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1&2 Thessalonians, 1&2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon

The 8 General Letters: Hebrews, James, 1&2 Peter, 1&2&3 John, Jude,

The 1 Apocalypse: Revelation

VI. BIBLE STUDY (45 min.)

Theme: **Workers**

1. Bible Study

Make use of the 5 step Bible Study method and study:

1 Corinthians 3:5-15

⁵What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. ⁷So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labour. ⁹For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building.

¹⁰By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. ¹¹For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹²If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, ¹³his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man’s work. ¹⁴If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. ¹⁵If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

2. Emphasis

You have been called to serve God in a task he assigns to you.

3. Explanation for the group leader

3:5-9

Christians are servants of God and each receives a different task from God. Thus, your task and place in the congregation is determined, not by the leadership in the congregation, but by God!

First picture: workers are either those who plant new plants or those who care for the new plants. Paul says that he planted and Apollos watered the plants. But only God gives growth!

All servants are equal in God’s eyes and they should all have the same goal, namely, that new plants are being planted and that the plants are cared for. The workers are

called ‘God’s co-workers’. And the people are called ‘God’s field’, because God planted them and they are called ‘God’s building’, because God built them. At the end of life each worker will receive a reward according to the quality of his work.

5:10-15

Second picture: workers are either those who lay the foundation or those who build on the foundation. Paul as an expert builder laid the foundation in many Corinthians’ life. He proclaimed the gospel to them and helped them to receive Jesus Christ into their hearts and lives. Jesus Christ is the only Foundation that will never crumble!

Apollos and other Christian workers built on this foundation in the Corinthians’ life. They followed up: they encouraged, taught and corrected. They made these Corinthians into disciples of Jesus Christ and equipped them to serve in some or other ministry.

But the Christians must be careful how they build on the Foundation, Jesus Christ. Weak materials will not be able to stand the test of fire at the last judgement and so what has been built on the Foundation with wood, hay and straw will be destroyed. But strong materials will be able to stand the test of fire at the last judgement and what has been built on the Foundation with gold, silver and costly stones will remain forever! The quality of each Christian’s work will be tested!

Only the best materials (e.g. the knowledge and application of the Bible) and the best buildings (e.g. growing Christians and mature Christians) will be able to stand God’s test of fire with respect to their works (ministry). Their works will follow them into heaven and the new earth and continue for ever (Revelation 14:13).

VII. PRAYER (8 min.)

Pray with one another in response to what God said to you during this gathering. Let every group member take a turn to pray one or two sentences about what God taught him during this meeting.

Pray with one another for one another (Romans 15:30) and for other people (Colossians 4:12).

VIII. THE NEXT MEETING (2 min.)

Hand out the preparation for the next gathering.