

GOALS FOR THE GROUP LEADER

Help the group members:

1. to grasp the important principles of evangelisation
2. to get experience by participating in one discovery group session

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 praise God that Jesus Christ seeks the lost

Theme: To praise God for Jesus Christ seeking the lost

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

Luke 15:1-7

¹ Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbours together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

- What was the attitude of the religious Pharisees towards people lost due to sin and its consequences?
- What is the attitude of serious Christians towards people lost in sin and its consequences?
- What happens in heaven when a non-Christian comes to faith in Jesus Christ?

3. Worship

Let everyone in the small group take a turn to worship (in one or two sentences) God, because Jesus Christ came to seek and to save sinners (Luke 19:10)!

II. INTRODUCTION THEME (1 min.)

The theme for this meeting is: Evangelisation

Read or explain in your own words.

One of the best ways to learn to do evangelism is to participate in a discovery group. Under the guidance of a discovery group leader you learn how to discuss the truths in the Bible with a contact, friend or family member. You learn how to talk about Jesus Christ: who he is, what he has done in the past and what he is doing now, and how different kinds of people begin a personal relationship with him.

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: Evangelism

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|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Day 1 | Isaiah 43:1-13
God's intention during the Old Testament period was that Israel should make him known to the world |
| Day 2 | Matthew 4:17-25
Jesus involves his disciples in the proclamation of the gospel and the fishing of men |
| Day 3 | Luke 10:1-24
Jesus sends his disciples out with a message, authority and blessing |
| Day 4 | Acts 13:38-52
People come to faith, but there is also opposition and persecution |
| Day 5 | 1 Corinthians 9:19-23
Go and stand next to people in order to save them |
| Day 6 ^{BS} | Matthew 9:1-38
Jesus heals, preaches and teaches people |
| Day 7 | Jeremiah 18:1-12
God saves whoever repents of his evil |
| Day 8 | Ezekiel 33:1-20
God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked |
| Day 9 | Daniel 4:25-38
Everyone must acknowledge that God is sovereign over the kingdoms of people |
| Day 10 | Hosea 4:1-9
God's people are destroyed from lack of knowledge |

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: Evangelisation and the discovery group

- What are important principles in evangelism?
- What is the goal of the discovery group?
- What characterises the discovery group (Answer: A small group of Christians with their non-Christian contacts discuss the truths in the Bible in a home).
- Which kind of questions does the group leader ask within a discovery group?
- What is the purpose of the summary illustration at the end of the meeting?

2. Commitment

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

- “With whom could you begin a discovery group?”

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

Explain the meaning of the new Bible verse.

EVANGELISM Acts 17:2b-3a

On three Sabbath days
he reasoned with them from the Scriptures,
explaining and proving
that the Christ had to suffer
and rise from the dead.

Acts 17:2b-3a (NIV)

VI. BIBLE STUDY (45 min.)

Theme: Who are you, Lord?

1. Bible Study

Make use of the discovery group method of Bible study and study:

Matthew 9:1-38

¹ Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. ² Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, “Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.”

³ At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, “This fellow is blaspheming!”

⁴ Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, “Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? ⁵ Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? ⁶ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the paralyzed man, “Get up, take your mat and go home.”

⁷ Then the man got up and went home. ⁸ When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to man.

⁹ As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. “Follow me,” he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. ¹⁰ While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹² On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³ But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

¹⁴ Then John's disciples came and asked him, “How is it that we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?” ¹⁵ Jesus answered, “How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them? The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast. ¹⁶ “No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. ¹⁷ Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.”

¹⁸ While he was saying this, a synagogue leader came and knelt before him and said, “My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live.”

¹⁹ Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples.

²⁰ Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. ²¹ She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed." ²² Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed at that moment.

²³ When Jesus entered the synagogue leader's house and saw the noisy crowd and people playing pipes, ²⁴ he said, "Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him. ²⁵ After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. ²⁶ News of this spread through all that region.

²⁷ As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" ²⁸ When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" "Yes, Lord," they replied. ²⁹ Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith let it be done to you"; ³⁰ and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, "See that no one knows about this." ³¹ But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region.

³² While they were going out, a man who was demon-possessed and could not talk was brought to Jesus. ³³ And when the demon was driven out, the man who had been mute spoke. The crowd was amazed and said, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel." ³⁴ But the Pharisees said, "It is by the prince of demons that he drives out demons."

³⁵ Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

2. Emphasis

Jesus Christ reveals to people who he is and what he came to do

3. Explanation for the group leader

The discovery group method of Bible Study

(1) Introduction

The group leader explains that the goal of the discovery group is 'to discover together the truths in the Bible with respect to God, man and life'.

(2) Read

Read Matthew 9:1-38. Every participant in the circle takes a turn to read one verse from the Bible passage. Then everyone reads the whole Bible passage for himself once more.

(3) Questions

The group leader prepared the following questions for discovery and discussion:

- Question 1. How does Jesus Christ show his interest in people as individuals?
- Question 2. Which aspect of the personality of Jesus Christ is revealed through his healing of the paralysed man?
- Question 3. What does Jesus mean when he says: "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few" (verse 37)?
- Question 4. How do the different people in this Bible passage respond to Jesus Christ?

Take a few minutes to discuss each question two by two (in couples). Then continue the discussion in the whole group.

(4) Discussion

Listen to the discoveries of the different couples and discuss the answer to the question within the whole small group.

(5) Summary

The group leader summarises in short the answer to each question by making use of the discoveries of the couples in the group.

At the end (after discussing 3 or 4 questions in this manner), he draws a summary illustration on a white board or a sheet of paper.

The summary illustration of Matthew 9:1-38 may look as follows (see illustration below).

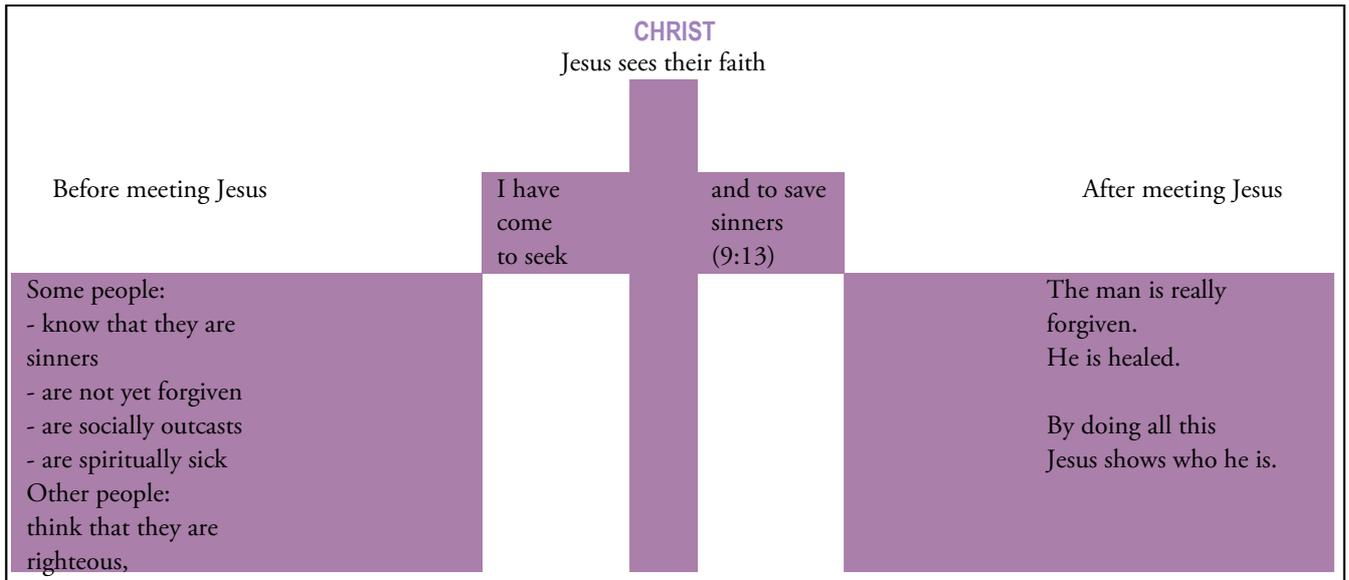
VII. PRAYER (8 min.)

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.



Jesus has authority to forgive sins.
 He really forgives sins.
 He heals a paralysed man.
 He heals many sick people.
 He raises the dead.
 The new life of God requires a new heart (cf. John 3:3)!
 Jesus asks, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" (9:28)