



# STAND COURAGEOUS

## BOOK STUDY DISCIPLESHIP TOOL

TO HELP YOU USE THIS BOOK IN A SMALL GROUP

### AGENDA

#### GETTING ACQUAINTED

You only get one chance to start. So, having everyone there to meet everyone, learn names, and connect on a “level playing field” is crucial. **DO NOT** be so structured in following this conversation guide you keep the Holy Spirit from moving in your group. This is intended to show you one way to navigate your time together.

#### CONVERSATION GUIDE

The most important thing you’re going to do as you start your group is **LISTEN!** The leader who is doing all the talking is not a great small group leader!

1. What happened last week you are thankful for?
  - Everyone needs to answer briefly.
2. What challenge is happening in your life, family, or community?
  - Everyone needs to answer briefly.
3. Ask for a volunteer to pray for each person by name.
  - Pray for everyone by name
  - Thank God for all the blessings on our lives
  - Pray for the challenges we are facing.
4. Ask if everyone was able to read the assigned chapter.
5. Ask everyone to share one main takeaway from the chapter.
6. Work through the discussion questions in the back of the chapter.
7. Once everyone has had a chance to answer the questions at the end of the chapter, ask the following questions:
  - Ask, “From what you have read this week and what we discussed today/tonight, what is your ‘I will’ statement? How are you going to apply this lesson/truth?”
  - Assign the next reading assignment/chapter for the group and confirm date and time of next meeting
  - Ask, “Does anyone feel led to close in prayer?” If no one volunteers, the group leader will voice a short prayer and close out the group.<sup>1</sup>

## BOOKS

The first order of business is your **BOOK ORDER!** Be sure to order your books one month in advance from your first group meeting! It is critical that everyone leave your group on Launch Night with the book in hand.

When you realize the average American reads 2.4 books per year, you begin to grasp the potential impact reading one solid, Christian book can have on a person. And reading books in a high accountability context is more like graduate school than reading in a recliner. Knowing you're going to be held accountable for learning the key takeaways and have a conversation with your group about the book will make the learning experience really rich. The best group leaders share from their own "well" of knowledge and experience, so using a book that really speaks to you is best.

## CALENDAR

One of the most "mission critical" activities you'll do at your first session will be setting the calendar for the season. You and your group will need to decide how often you will meet as a group (weekly or bi-weekly) and how long you will meet. Set targets for when you will begin and end. This will prevent the meeting from taking too long (sixty to ninety minutes is ideal).

## LOCATION & GROUP SIZE

Keep the groups small. (Five is the ideal number, but four to six is okay.) Divide larger groups into sub-groups and have them work through the questions simultaneously. Plan in advance the location and environment for your group. Make sure you'll have a comfortable place for everyone. Whether around a dining room table, in a den or in another location be sure your location is conducive to conversation and prayer. All this will help draw quiet or shy people into the discussion.

## FRIEND & TRANSPARENCY

Another important thing is friendship. You're going to need to be a **FRIEND** to your group members, Invest in them by loving them unconditionally—this means loving them where they are, showing them you're their friend, and listening to them intently. **TRANSPARENCY** is another important part of being a group leader. This book you will read together is important and the prayer time is critical, but the real impact of a mature group leader is in sharing his life experiences, both good and bad. This is invaluable.

## PRAY

Praying for your group and leading your group to pray for each other is huge. Be intentional about this orienting your group to God, encouraging your group to pray for each other and for you between sessions.

<sup>i</sup> These questions were chosen from Discovery Group questions which are being used globally to help catalyze Disciple Making Movements. We acknowledge this is a very different setting than the one for which they were created. Used with permission of Final Command Ministries (finalcommand.com).