



MIDDLE SCHOOL RESOURCE

The God Who Sends: Session 14

Practical Discipleship

Key Statement: Discipleship should be 1) informal, 2) instructional, and 3) imitation.

::CONNECT::

Option 1: Informal and Imitational Lived Out

- Together with your students, make a list of places or situations they might encounter. For example:
 - Going to a major league baseball game
 - Attending a concert
 - PE class
 - Waiting in line to get your driver's license
- Break them into groups of four or so. Have each group pick one of the situations from the list.
- Their job is now to make a skit in that setting showing informal, imitational discipleship. One person should be the more mature Christian (the Jedi master, so to speak), and at least one other person should be their disciple (the padawan, to continue to analogy). To make the skit easier, I suggest they create some catalyst: something that goes wrong, or some event that occurs that compels a reaction. For instance, it could be as big as a fight breaking out, or as small as someone dropping their food. Any situation that will conjure a response.
- Have them prepare and then show their skits.
- Applaud good Christian responses; suggest tweaks where necessary. Talk about how the environments they chose were the equivalents of the "when you stand up and when you lie down" settings in Deuteronomy 6. Talk about the imitation aspect of the skit as well. If you think it would be helpful, share an experience or two of your own of someone whom you've come to imitate, or let the students share their experiences of good imitation as well.

Option 2: Instructional Discipleship on Show

- You're going to ask your students to demonstrate the six aspects of instructional discipleship shown in Acts 20:17-24 (point 2 of the lesson). Break your students into six groups. Each group is to produce a skit or a drawing showing one of the following:
 - How Paul Discipled: Proclaiming
 - How Paul Discipled: Teaching
 - Where Paul Discipled: In Public
 - Where Paul Discipled: From House to House
 - What Paul Taught: Repentance

- What Paul Taught: Faith
- The exercise will make your students look carefully at the distinctions in this part of the lesson.
- Have them put their skits or their drawings together. They should make their skits and drawings set in the contemporary world, not in Paul's day. What does proclaiming look like today, as opposed to teaching? What is repentance as opposed to faith?
- Let them share their skits. Applaud appropriate demonstrations and applications. Use their good points as bridges to further discussion or commentary. For instance, if they show discipleship happening from house to house in a Bible study session, you could also suggest how sleepovers and hanging out and trips to the movies or the mall are also discipleship opportunities on the informal level (point 1).

::CONVEY::

If you are pressed for time this week, consider covering points two and three to save time.

Remember, this is merely a suggested outline adaptation for a middle school group. If you decide to incorporate one or more option into your group time, you will likely have to be very selective on the material you decide to teach through. Keep in mind that each class is different, and as the leader guide suggests, personalize the lesson content for your class by determining what elements are most applicable. Don't feel pressured to teach through all of the content in a single meeting, but instead help middle school students to see the main overall point and big picture the lesson is conveying.

::COLLIDE::

See Leader Guide