

DISCIPLESHIP IN COMMUNITY

A FOUR WEEK SMALL GROUP STUDY



LEADER GUIDE

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Small Group Leaders,

Thank you for taking the time to lead your small group through this valuable four week study. The content in this study will help flesh out the vital components of a successful small group at Doxa. Leader Notes have been provided throughout, containing various suggestions, answers and ideas. The goal is to provide you with the confidence to lead each of these weeks without having already had a shared experience together such as listening to the same sermon, reading a book, or watching a video together. There are three important things to know as you begin preparing for and walking your group through this study:

#1 Weekly preparation is key

Whether it's a group dinner to prepare for, or asking someone to give their testimony during Breakout time, make sure you are aware of what is coming in the week ahead. Beyond the logistics, be sure to read the Scripture passages ahead of time. Ask God to prepare you and your group for lively, enriching, and worshipful discussion.

#2 How to use the Leader Notes

The goal of giving you detailed notes is so that you can "own" the material yourself. Do not read the words in front your group for the first time like a robot! Read through the leader notes a few times so you can use them to explain something in your own words.

#3 As the Leader goes, so goes the group

If you are unprepared or unmotivated to take your group through this material, it will be obvious. If you "own" the material and excitedly put it forward as a valuable DNA-Building study, you will find your group on board. Be enthusiastic and intentional with this material. It will pay off for the entire group to be on the same page and committed to the same vision for your small group.

WEEK 1

WHAT IS A DOXA SMALL GROUP?

Big Idea

Dinner & Overview of Discipleship in Community Material

Timeline For The Night

45 min - dinner | 5 min - transition | 60 min - discussion | 10 min - prayer

Dinner & Introductions (45 min)

- » New groups: Be sure to facilitate group introductions (i.e. Have everyone say their name and a sentence about who they are.)
- » Leaders welcome everyone and briefly explain the purpose & timeline of the night before praying for the meal.
- » Enjoy food and fellowship together.

Transition to Content (5 min)

- » Leaders, introduce the reason for this 4 week study:
 - For new groups to start off well
 - For existing groups to reset and refocus on Small Group essentials
 - For everyone to gain a clear understanding of the purpose, goals, and methods of Doxa Small Groups
- » Week One theme: What is a Doxa Small Group?
 - Simple 3 word answer. "Discipleship in Community"
- » But because both "discipleship" and "community" can be buzzwords if not carefully defined, we need to look at God's Word for what God says discipleship and community need to look like.
- » Warning: We're going to cover a ton of ground! This week is a "breadth" study, to see various aspects of discipleship and community, Seeing the big picture is the goal.

Discipleship Discussion (30 min)

General questions about Discipleship (pick one as a primer to the discussion)

1. What comes to mind when you think about being a “disciple”?
2. What does it mean to “make disciples”?
3. What are the top 3 words or phrases that you would say are evidence someone is growing as a disciple?

Definition of Discipleship: Discipleship is the lifelong process of a Christian growing in the knowledge of God, love for God, and obedience to God as they follow Jesus.

Knowing God: Read Philippians 3:7-11

-What does it mean to “know Jesus”? (Coming to know/believe/trust that Jesus is Lord of your life, and of all things. It includes being in personal relationship with him through faith in his finished work, and seeing his “value/worth” as surpassing everything else in the universe.)

-Why was knowing Jesus of such surpassing value to Paul? (Knowing Jesus means gaining everything we truly need. Through Christ, we have the gift of God’s righteousness given to us who only deserve punishment for sin. We now know the One for whom we were created.)

Loving God: Read Matthew 22:34-40

-What does loving God have to do with growing as a disciple? What are the dangers of disassociating “discipleship” from loving God? (It is the litmus test of true discipleship. Disciples grow in knowledge and understanding for the purpose of loving God accurately and to a greater degree than before. Disassociating these things often creates an oxymoron: proud Christians.)

Obeying God: Read Matthew 28:16-20

-Why is it so important that we connect true discipleship with obedience to Jesus? (Knowing and loving Jesus results in obeying Jesus, or else it isn't actually knowing or loving Jesus. Following Jesus includes submission of our will, words, thoughts, desires, and actions in accord with how he would have us to live.)

Community Discussion (30 min)

Leaders: "Community" is a buzzword not just in Christian churches but everywhere. People strive for community, build community, protect community... but what is a distinctly Christian community supposed to look like?

What is Community?

The "Doxa Definition" of Community: Community is the result of a group of disciples committing to love, welcome, and serve one another in the name of Jesus.

Leader comment: We don't make "community" our #1 goal! We make glorifying God by growing as disciples our #1 goal, and God develops community from that shared pursuit.

Leader comment: If "community" is our obsession, it actually harms community. Either we bounce around until we find the magical "thing" we're searching for, or we end up protecting what we have so much that we become unwilling to grow (new people) or change (seeing new leaders go out to start groups).

General Questions about Community (Pick one as a primer to the discussion)

1. Where/how do you see community happening in our city, country, world?
2. How is the goal of Christian community unique from other communities?
3. When is a time in your life when you have experienced deep community? What factors contributed to this depth? (i.e. time spent together, shared goals, consistency, experiencing joyful or hard things together)
4. Why does God call us to community?

Welcome One Another - Read Romans 15:1-7

- Scan the passage again on your own. What words or phrases stand out to you as key for seeing true community develop?

- Read verse 7 aloud again. How has Christ welcomed you? **(Suggestions: Intentionally, fully, warmly, lovingly, includes initiating relationship and love, sacrificially to himself)**

- In light of how Christ has welcomed you, list several specific and tangible ways we can welcome one another to the glory of God. **(Develop a culture of relational depth and sincerity. See new people as desirable, not interruptions to our group. Communicate "You belong, we want you here" to everyone. Each person is welcome with various points of immaturity/doubts/weakness. And, like Jesus, we welcome one another for the purpose of change/growth - never to simply stay as we are!)**

-How can our gathering together as a small group be helpful in our call to go and make disciples?

Pray Together (10 min)

» Encourage at least a few people to pray out loud for the life of your small group

Ideas:

- For the life and health of this group
- That God would be glorified in our discussions & teach us
- That God would build our relationships
- That we would grow in service toward one another

Wrap up

- » Thanks for coming!
- » Let everyone know next week's plan. (time; no dinner included; bring Bible & pen).
- » Feel free to invite your friends who aren't yet a part of a group! This would be a great time for them to jump in with us as we set the tone for our weekly gatherings.

**** NEW LEADERS: Remember to look for an email asking you to record your attendance each week for your group!**

WEEK 2

6 CORE VALUES OF SMALL GROUPS PART 1

Timeline For The Night

15 min - connecting time | 60 min - discussion & group prayer
45 min - breakout

Breakout

15 min - testimony from leader | 30 min - breakout discussion question

Connecting Time (15 min)

- » New groups: Welcome everyone and if you weren't here last week so glad you're here.
- » New groups: Go around and introduce yourselves once again (name, icebreaker question).

-Ice-breaker question: What is something you've done in the past 3 months you really enjoyed OR What is something you're excited to do in the next 3 months?

- » Briefly explain the purpose & timeline of the night so people know what to expect.

Discussion & Prayer (60 min)

Leader Comments

Doxa Small Groups are built from a belief that our theology should drive our core values, and these values in turn lead us to certain methods or ways of doing things. Rather than rely on pragmatic ways to develop community, we believe the best and deepest community comes from shared core values and theological foundations.

Doxa Small Groups have 6 Core Values. We're going to cover 3 this week and 3 next week. For each Core Value, we'll see a theological foundation, the philosophy of ministry that comes from it, and then the methodology of how that plays out in Small Groups.

As with our first week, we're going to cover a ton of ground as we take a 30,000 foot view of each of these big ideas.

Core Value #1: The Word Of God

- » Theology: Inspiration and Sufficiency of Scripture
- » Philosophy of Ministry: Faithful study of the Word
- » Methodology: Large Group discussions focused on understanding and application

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-16 (Leader: choose 1-2 of the questions below for discussion)

-Why does it matter that we believe the Bible is "breathed out by God"?
(Our view of the Bible as God's Word versus a collection of sayings or "mostly true" will dramatically impact our obedience to God in our lives.)

-Why is the Bible profitable for our lives? (Teaching/reproof/correction/training so that we can be complete and equipped for every good work. In other words, it is sufficient for our daily living, informs our thinking, corrects us when we believe falsely. It gives us God's comprehensive worldview in how to live for his glory.)

-How have you seen God use his Word recently in your life?

Core Value #2: Prayer

- » Theology: Dependence on God
- » Philosophy of Ministry: Develop a culture of prayer in Small Group
- » Methodology: Pray together and for one another

Read 1 Peter 5:6-7

- What does it look like to humble yourself before God? Why is it so important? (Recognize your dependence on God, your inability to lead/guide life on your own, his power over all things. Admit your need, ask for his help to enjoy needing him.)

- How do you cast all your anxieties on God? What does it look like in your prayer life? (Includes heart and words. Declaring in prayer that we won't carry our burdens alone, know he carries us, leaving our anxieties at his feet, asking his help to not take them back up again on our own.)

Core Value #3: Growing In Christ

- » Theology: Ongoing sanctification
- » Philosophy of Ministry: Everyone pursuing Christ-likeness
- » Methodology: Breakout times designated for depth of relationship, sharing from the heart, and loving accountability questions below for discussion)

Read Ephesians 4:22-24 (Leader: Consider asking 1-2 questions for the sake of time)

- What does it tangibly look like to "put off the old self" on a regular basis? (Repenting of sin willingly and quickly. Rejecting false thinking and believing when we come to know it is false - whether about ourselves, God, others, or right from wrong.)

- Why do we need to be renewed in the spirit of our minds as part of our growth in Christ? (Our thought life is directly connected to what we believe and how we process the events of our lives. We can all get into trouble when we refuse God's corrective, renewing work upon our minds and instead stay stuck in immature, foolish thinking.)

- How should being in community with each other help us obey the command to put off the old self and put on the new self? (Assuming we have increasing transparency in our relationships, we can identify ways of living, thinking, speaking and relating that need loving accountability to put off the old and put on the new in the power of the Spirit.)

Group prayer: Choose any one of the 3 core values discussed tonight and make that the focus of your prayer time, that your group would grow in it together.

Breakout Time (45 min)

Breakout Time Explained:

Leader Comments: Having just gone over the importance of the breakout times as a group, I think it's important that we do that together tonight. One thing I'd like to have each of us do, whenever we're comfortable, is to share some of our personal story so we know one another a bit better.

» Since leaders need to lead, I'll go first! The idea with sharing some of your life story is to give some background, include how you came to Christ (i.e. how old were you? What were the circumstances? Was anyone influential in you hearing and believing the gospel?), and some ways you've grown in him.

- » And then, any questions that pop up, the group is welcome to ask - about relationships, work, whatever background stuff you want to know.
- » Ideally, once we're done tonight we'll have someone volunteer to go next week. Otherwise, I'll reach out to schedule it.
- » The intent would be to give about 15-20 minutes to each one of us during breakout to share with the rest of the men/women . If it doesn't take that long, no problem! But it's available to you.
- » OK, so here is some of my testimony...

Breakout Discussion Question:

- What place does God's Word and prayer have in your life right now? Are you regularly (daily) in the Word? Are you praying often?

- If not (to either question), how do you want to grow in these areas in the next couple months?

Leaders: Try to encourage specific answers here! Develop an action plan, something to follow up with them about soon... reading Bible 3-4x per week (if not reading at all), or daily... praying prayers of thanksgiving, and of praise, and of requests to God on a daily basis... things like that.

WEEK 3

6 CORE VALUES OF SMALL GROUPS PART 2

Timeline for the night

15 min - connecting time | 60 min - discussion & group prayer
45 min - breakout

Breakout

15 min - testimony if someone is ready | 30 min - breakout discussion question

Connecting Time (15 min)

- » New groups: Welcome everyone & if you weren't here last week so glad you're here

- » New groups: Go around and introduce yourselves if anyone is new or if it seems needed
 - Suggestion questions: What was your first job? What was the first concert you went to?

- » Briefly explain the purpose & timeline of the night so people know what to expect
 - Example (use/adjust to fit your style!): Tonight we're going to continue our conversation about the 6 Core Values of Small Group

- » Our first 3 core values were... can anyone remember?
 - Discuss, apply, obey the Word
 - The centrality of prayer
 - Everyone pursuing Christ-likeness

» Our goal is to have these be major themes in our group, things we are all working toward and doing together.

» And tonight we're going go through 3 more, look at where we see these in the Word, and ask the Lord's help in all of these coming together for the good of our group and for God's glory.

Discussion & Prayer (60 min)

Leader comments (same as last week's notes):

» Doxa Small Groups are built from a belief that our theology should drive our core values, and these values in turn lead us to certain methods or ways of doing things. Rather than rely on pragmatic ways to develop community, we believe the best and deepest community comes from shared core values and theological foundations.

» We're going to finish going through each of the 6 Core Values of Doxa Small Groups. We'll start with the theological foundation, then show the value it produces and the resulting method with how our groups operate.

» As with last week, we're going to cover a ton of ground as we take a 30,000 foot view of each of these big ideas.

Core Value #4 Mutual Ministry

Theology: All Christians are in ministry

Philosophy of Ministry: Shared Responsibility

Methodology: Everyone plays a role in the effectiveness, depth, and life of the group

Read Ephesians 4:11-13

-What impact should all Christians being “in ministry” have on a local church? What about in a small group? (We all have a part to play. This isn't an audience-driven church, i.e. watching from a distance while staff/pastors do all the work. Everyone is included and needed for a healthy local church and small group.)

-What are some blessings that come to mind as you consider the equal status presented in these verses that every believer shares? (There are not tiers of Christianity. There are “levels” of maturity so to speak, but all of these are available to every Christian as they pursue growing in Christ, maturing in him together.)

LEADERS: PAUSE TO LOOK AT SHARED RESPONSIBILITY HAND-OUT TOGETHER AS A GROUP

Leaders: Read through each one of these together as a group.

» Large Group Discussion Facilitator: This will most often be the Small Group Leader, but it does not have to be. This person facilitates group discussion well, asking questions, enlivening the group to participate and possesses both good knowledge of the Word and good people skills.

- » Prayer Facilitator: This person thinks ahead of time about what the prayer focus should be on any given small group night. Perhaps they take a nugget from the sermon and turn it into a theme, or they have the group pray through a Psalm together, or open it up to prayer requests to pray for one another. They keep the variety going, encouraging everyone to engage in prayer.

- » Worship Facilitator: Singing together to the Lord is a great way to grow together as a group. While this element of small group meetings is not required, it is encouraged when possible. This person has a passion for worship through song and a capability to lead the group in singing together, usually with an acoustic guitar. They think ahead about songs to sing and come prepared. Doxa provides a “Top 50 songs” document to all small groups complete with lyrics as well as another document with chords to help facilitate worship in small groups.

- » Breakout Facilitator: This would be one man and one woman who possess particular giftedness in helping people be transparent, sharing from the heart during the men’s and women’s breakout times. They are in charge of determining the topic to discuss, or the question to ask, or how to follow up on previous commitments someone made.

- » Food Facilitator: They either bring the snack or are in charge of who will do so. If a meal is being shared, they are the primary communicator to the group of the theme, or who will bring what foods. Additionally, they coordinate meals for members of the group when needed for things like recovering from a surgery or someone who had a baby.

- » Follow-Up Facilitator: This person has 2 primary objectives. First, they have a heart to make members of the small group know they are missed when not present at a meeting by sending texts or emails. Second, they are the primary person to follow up when someone visits your small group and extend a warm welcome, see if they have any questions, and encourage them to return.

» Events and Outreach Facilitator: This person helps the group get together outside of normal group meetings. Additionally, this person is passionate about considering ways the small group could be engaging with neighbors, or city-wide events happening, or any other ways the group can be a light to the community.

After reading/summarizing these Facilitator roles, ask any of the following questions to wrap up:

» Is there a Facilitator Role that jumps out to you as something you're interested in having in our group?

» Does anyone want to commit to taking on one of these roles, perhaps for a 1-2 month trial period?

» Leaders, take note: There's nothing that locks someone in to taking a Facilitator role on forever! Keep the barrier to entry low by inviting people to try it.

» And, people are welcome to share a role if they'd prefer to partner with someone (like one man and one woman each being follow up facilitators).

» Whether anyone wants to take responsibility for one of these this week is fine, but I just want to personally say how meaningful it would be to know as a group we're praying about how any one of us could step into a role like this

(Leader: You've got to say this enthusiastically!)

Core Value #5: Membership

Theology: Church as the body of Christ

Philosophy of Ministry: Small group is a place to belong

Methodology: Commitment to open groups and developing relationships

(Leaders: Groups are not closed, people are always welcome to join... either by Doxa sending people or by "organic" means of you inviting people)

Read Romans 12:4-5

- What is the value of diversity within the body of Christ as seen in these verses? (Difference in function should enhance our unity, not threaten it. As different as God has made each person, he has also brought us together in a local body/church to work well together in loving and serving him.)

- How should our small group seek to display and celebrate “unity in diversity”?

Core Value #6: Exponential Groups

Theology: Growing to maturity

Philosophy of Ministry: Grow to Lead

Methodology: Anyone can grow into a Small Group Leader

Read Colossians 1:28-29

What comes to mind as you think about being “mature in Christ”? (Stable, consistently growing in knowledge, love, obedience to God, increasing in wisdom and understanding of the Word, knowing how to help others live well for Jesus.)

Six months from now, if we are all growing in maturity in Christ, how will that positively impact our small group? (Depth of relationship grows, knowledge of the Word deepens, confession/repentance is ongoing and regular as opposed to occasional or surprising. Vulnerability in ways you need others to help you change is increasing.)

Group prayer suggestion: Ask one person to take each of the 6 core values. If less than 6 people, double-up. Pray for these values to become part of the culture of the group.

WEEK 4

DEVELOPING BIBLICAL COMMUNITY

Timeline for the night

60 min - dinner | 30-45 min - discussion | 10 min - prayer

Discussion (30-45 minutes)

Leader notes for discussion:

- » (If you feel the moment is right...) “Last week we discussed Facilitator roles. Has anyone thought more about a role they might be interested in?

- » The goal of Small Groups is to help each person walk with Christ, both personally and within a community of disciples. In order to do that, we need to establish some common ground by committing to the same things together. While we could list many things worthy of our commitment, Doxa holds up 6 commitments as vital to the health, depth, and effectiveness of all small groups.

- » My goal as one of the leaders of this group is to ensure that we uphold these commitments, and glorify God as we do it.

- » But as we’ve already covered in this four week study of small groups, it’s not only up to the leaders to uphold these commitments.

- » Part of the overarching purpose of this study is to make sure everyone in our small group understands how vital they are to the group’s growth and effectiveness.

- » So with that said, let’s cover these one at a time, reading Scriptures that directly relate to each of these 6 commitments and discussing them.

By God's grace I will seek to honor the following
commitments in my small group:

#1 Love

» I will demonstrate with attitude, words and actions a heart of love in my small group. When offenses happen, I will forgive and seek reconciliation. When tangible needs are raised that we can address and meet, we will sacrifice together to meet needs. Loving one another well will be the reputation of our small group by God's grace.

Read: John 13:34-35

» Why does loving one another make it clear to the world that we are disciples of Jesus? How do you personally want to see this group love one another well? (Biblical, godly love for other people is un-natural! Our nature is to love who loves us, spend time with only those we're naturally drawn to in personality, to hold grudges/bitterness, and to love only when we know we will benefit.)

(Instead, the love Jesus calls me to and causes within me is an others-centered, God-glorifying, self-sacrificing love that includes people very different from me that I am not naturally drawn to.)

#2 Invest

» Investing means I attend every week that I am in town and physically healthy. I will invest in relationships, participate in discussion, and be open with my time. I am also ready to invest beyond our small group meetings for relational connecting, serving one another or serving together, and helping our group grow any way I can.

Read: Hebrews 10:24-25

» Six months from now, if we are all increasingly committed to obeying these verses, what are some positive benefits you foresee happening in the group?

(Ideas: Increased closeness, connectedness, deepening prayer together, transparency about sin, accountability to each other, serving others and intentionally living for God's glory.)

#3 Pray

» I will pray for our group and pray with our group. I commit to depending on God to continually transform each of us into the image of Christ and will show that by my prayer life.

Read: Philippians 4:4-7

» How can we get "better" at praying together as a group? What may need to change in our routine as a group or with how we intentionally take time to pray? (Ideas: Ask someone to step up as Prayer Facilitator to focus on this! Change when you pray... 10 min at beginning of night, or after large group discussion, or longer prayer in Breakout. Maybe a monthly rhythm like 30 minutes of prayer the last week of the month.)

#4 Making Disciples

» I am actively involved in helping people in my group grow in their faith, i.e. I am making disciples. Even if I am young in my faith or have been an immature Christian for too long, I know God's call on my life is to make disciples. I understand it takes more than 2 leaders for a group of disciples to grow and I am enthusiastic about participating in each person's growth.

Read: Philemon 1:4-7

» What key words stand out in these verses about how to be part of a discipleship community? (Ideas: thanksgiving, praying for one another, love, faith, growing in knowledge of the gospel, refreshing one another's hearts. "Sharing of your faith" here is not about evangelism. The word is "koinonia"... it is the fellowship that springs from shared faith in Christ, a mutual upbuilding that happens through loving Christian community.)

#5 God's Word

» The Bible is the final and highest authority of my life and beliefs. Where God's Word contradicts my current beliefs - about God, myself, my understanding of salvation and the gospel, how to live in the world, or about Truth in every regard - I want to change and conform to the Bible, even where it's hard.

Read: 2 Timothy 3:14-16

» Looking at these verses, how will we know as a group that we are collectively submitted to God's Word? What evidences should we see that God's Word is our final and highest authority for our life and beliefs? (Ideas: We know when we're submitted when we are aligning our beliefs and lives with God's revealed Truth. We're openly repenting when our hearts are proud, angry, unbelieving, resisting God's authority, etc. We can say things like "My life doesn't match what God says here" without shame, because we know we're loved and the group is for the growth of every person.)

#6 Grow

» By the power of the Holy Spirit who indwells me as a Christian, I commit to personal growth toward maturity in Christ. By God's design, I need the help of others to help me grow. That being said, I know it is never ultimately anyone else's job to grow my faith. So I will actively depend on God in prayer, worship, repentance, and spiritual disciplines to grow in my walk with Christ.

Read: Colossians 2:6-7

» How does someone "walk in Christ"? What are the long-term results of a person committing to the day in, day out walking in Christ that God calls every Christian to do?

(Ideas: Walk in Christ by being in fellowship with him... in the Word, in prayer, depending on the Holy Spirit to use circumstances, relationships, suffering to make us more like Christ. Long-term results include increased wisdom, discernment, deep/abiding joy and peace, sacrificial love becoming more natural, quick to repent of sin, etc.)

Prayer (10 minutes)

» Let's take some time to pray about any (or all) of these 6 commitments. Ask God to work in your own heart about something that's challenging to you, or to change you in specific ways to help bless and serve this group as we grow together in Christ.

Breakout (30-45 minutes)

» Ask 1-2 people to share their testimony, and/or ask the breakout question below.

» Breakout Question: How can we as a group of men/women make sure that we are assisting one another in our growth in Christ yet still upholding the necessary value of each one of us being responsible to grow in the Lord? **(Ideas: If each group member is focused on the good of the entire group and also their own personal responsibilities to grow in the Lord, the result will be all bases covered. I will be taking on what I can to serve and love others, and others will be looking to care well for me.)**

TIMING GUIDE

Leaders: This timing guide is the big picture view of what each week could look like during the four week study. You will notice a good degree of variation in the schedules. This is to demonstrate how different weeks can look, with the goal of helping you think through small group nights beyond these four weeks in various ways so they do not become rigid in their routine.

Timeline For The Night Week 1

45 min - dinner | 5 min - transition | 60 min - discussion | 10 min - prayer

Timeline For The Night Week 2

15 min - connecting time | 60 min - discussion & group prayer
45 min - breakout

Breakout

15 min - testimony from leader | 30 min - breakout discussion question

Timeline for the night Week 3

15 min - connecting time | 60 min - discussion & group prayer
45 min - breakout

Breakout

15 min - testimony if someone is ready | 30 min - breakout discussion question

Timeline for the night Week 4

60 min - dinner | 30-45 min - discussion | 10 min - prayer

TESTIMONY GUIDE

Taking time to share testimonies during the men's and women's breakout time is a great way to get to know one another and celebrate the work God has done in your lives. The instructions below are not meant to formalize the process (i.e. requiring you to follow a method) but are meant to assist people in thinking through their own story of when and how God saved them.

The process of having someone share their testimony is as easy as:

1. Ask the person at least 3 days in advance so they have time to prepare what they want to say.
2. Give them the broad plan - "Share with us some of your background, what led you to Christ and when it was, and something about your life following Christ as you've continued to grow."
3. Tell them you will open up a time for questions to the group after they share to make sure the whole group can participate in getting to know them.

The questions below are available as a PDF on the Leader Resource Page (doxa-church.net -> Discipleship -> Soul Care -> Leader Resource Page). Please email or text it to your small group member several days before they give their testimony to help them prepare.

Questions to think through in order to help you share your faith story

Background and Life Before Christ

1. Where did you grow up? How would you describe your family/up-bringing?
2. What did your life look like before Christ captured your heart?

3. Jeremiah 17:9 says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?" How was your heart sick and deceitful? What internal pains and sins were you walking in?

Conversion:

1. What brought you to realize your need for salvation?
2. What did God do in your life that caused you to consider Christ? When did you begin sensing His call?
3. How have your beliefs and worldview changed?
4. What has God revealed to you about Who He is, and how has that changed you?

Life With Christ:

1. After salvation, the Holy Spirit begins the work of sanctification. How have you seen fruit in your life and evidences of the Holy Spirit at work in you?
2. What external changes have you seen?
3. How has your heart changed?

Group Questions:

After someone shares their testimony with the group, have an open time for any questions to be asked. These could be clarifying questions, or additional information, or something like "What's your favorite _____?" Mix up the questions and have fun getting to know your fellow SG member!