

01 WEEK

SEPTEMBER 13, 2020



Home Group Study Guide

Growth



THECROSSPOINTCHURCH.CA

# Getting Started

## HOW TO USE THIS CURRICULUM

Welcome to our Home Group companion study for the teaching series *FORMED*. This series is about becoming a disciple, a person who is being formed into the image of Christ. The series is structured around Crosspoint's Five Marks of a Disciple (FMD).

This study is designed as a companion to Crosspoint's weekend teaching. It will help you to discuss and apply the content from the message. It also provides an option for you to dig deeper into the Word of God. You will find it uses the same core text from the sermon.

We encourage you to prayerfully read through this study before your meeting. Make changes as you see fit. You know your Home Group better than we do, so adjustments and alterations to the questions are inevitable. There is no perfect curriculum that perfectly matches every group's needs and journey.

We welcome and appreciate your feedback on this curriculum. We are a learning community and strive for continual improvement. We welcome change if it can help better serve others in their spiritual journeys. Be prepared to share your insights at the next Home Group leaders huddle, or email us.

# A Basic Agenda

These are the basic elements in every Home Group meeting. You have the option of doing either the "message reflection" or the "deeper in the word" sections. You likely won't have time to do both, especially if your group likes to share. Remember, the goal of your group is to build transformed lives, not to keep an agenda. Pay attention to what the Holy Spirit is doing. If you need to change things up, go for it.

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>ICEBREAKER</b>         | Take ten minutes to reconnect and get to know each other.                   |
| <b>MESSAGE DISCUSSION</b> | Discuss the teaching from the Sunday message. Hopefully you've all seen it! |
| <b>DEEPER IN THE WORD</b> | Dig into the core scripture passage from the weekend teaching.              |
| <b>REFLECTION</b>         | Talk about the meaning of the text and how it personally applies..          |
| <b>PRAYER</b>             | Set aside time to share needs and pray for group members.                   |

# Core Text

## *Luke 14 (ESV)*

25 Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, 26 “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. 27 Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. 28 For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ 31 Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32 And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. 33 So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.



# I C E B R E A K E R

If your group doesn't know each other well, or if you've been apart for a while, an icebreaker is a great way to help them get reacquainted. Icebreakers also 'break the ice' and help people engage in conversation. When you share information about yourself with others, and they accept you for who you are, it helps to build trust. This trust leads to greater transparency and openness. If you want some great samples for icebreakers, check out this website: <https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/help-others-grow/leading-small-groups/small-group-icebreakers.html>

# Message Discussion

## QUESTIONS

You might have questions of your own to ask.

1. During the message we learned how discipleship is often seen as optional rather than essential. How have you seen or heard this idea perpetuated?
2. "Dying to self is completely subversive and counter-cultural to our current cultural narratives of self-indulgence, self-autonomy, self-identity, and self-sufficiency." Do you agree or disagree? Why? Why else is self-denial difficult?
3. Do we sometimes fail to ask people to 'consider the cost' when we invite them to follow Jesus? Can you think of any examples?
4. What do you think about the idea that faith is more than intellectual assent but looks more like surrender?
5. How has this week's message challenged you?



# deeper

in the word

1. Why did Jesus share this message with the great crowds that accompanied him and not privately with his own disciples (v. 25)?
2. When Jesus used the phrase, “hate his own father and mother,” he was using hyperbole (an exaggeration not intended to deceive the listener). In other words, he wasn’t saying we should literally hate our family members as this would contradict his command for us to love our neighbours! Why might he have used such strong figurative language?
3. Why do you think Jesus first asks the crowd to “sit down and count the cost,” or “sit down and deliberate,” before following him (v. 28, 31)?
4. When we share the good news with others, what’s the drawback if we don’t explain the cost of being a follower of Jesus?
5. Jesus calls his followers to carry their cross and come after him (v. 27). He also calls them to “renounce all” (v.33). For some, this call to costly discipleship might be a strong deterrent. For others, it is powerful and liberating. Why do people respond differently?

# P R A Y E R

How you choose to set up your prayer time is up to your group. We hope that your group finds a way to track prayer requests and to celebrate when God answers prayer. We encourage you to not only pray for the sick, but to pray for the lost as well. We all have family members and friends who are far from God.

Often times, groups rush prayer because they run out of time. We recommend that you set an alarm so that you start praying thirty-minutes before your group ends. When your group members arrive, ask them what is the latest they can stay. Count backwards one-half-hour from that time.





# THE FIVE MARKS

On your journey of transformation, it makes sense to start with the end in mind. That's why we've captured the Five Marks from the pages of Scripture.

What is a disciple? The simple answer is that it's someone who is growing to become more and more like Jesus. Every Christ-follower is on a journey toward Christ-likeness. We are all being transformed to become more and more like him.



## GROWTH

A disciple with GROWTH lives a surrendered life, under Christ's leadership. Surrender includes glad obedience and dependence. When our lives are surrendered, this will lead to transformation through the Spirit's power. This is the most important mark because without it, the other marks cannot flourish.



## PURSUIT

A disciple with PURSUIT seeks to know Christ personally above all things. They seek him through personal spiritual practices like Bible reading and prayer. They also seek him publicly through worship with the body of Christ.





## COMMUNITY

A disciple in COMMUNITY engages in intentional, deeper relationships with a small group of other disciples. This group shares transformational, loving, and transparent relationships as they seek to build each other up.



## SERVICE

A disciple with SERVICE has a posture of service to others. They give of their time, treasure, and talents to build up the church and to help others in need.



## MISSION

A disciple on MISSION joins with Jesus in his redemptive mission in the world. They courageously share the gospel, in both word and deed. This takes place in every part of their lives - where they live, work, and play.