

EQUIPPED *to* DISCIPLE

A Leadership Formation Pathway at **WELLSPRING CHURCH**

SESSION 4

FACILITATING GROUP DISCIPLESHIP

FEBRUARY 2, 6PM–8PM

Big Idea

Group discipleship doesn't happen automatically. It requires intentional leadership that creates space for the Holy Spirit to work through Scripture, community, and honest conversation.

Equipped to Disciple - *Session 4: Facilitating Group Discipleship*

1. Why Groups Matter

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- Discipleship in Scripture is fundamentally communal, not individualistic.
- Spiritual growth happens most deeply in relationships marked by truth, love, and accountability.
- Groups are not primarily about content coverage, but about formation into Christlikeness.

1. Why Groups Matter

Biblical Anchors

- “It’s not good that man is alone...”
- Sin is estrangment, and salvation is reconciled relationships (sacraments)
- “I will give you [Abraham] a family...”
- Jesus called *twelve* (not one)
- **Acts 2:42–47** – Life sahred around teaching, prayer, and fellowship
- **Colosians 3:16** — “Let the word of Chcrist dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spirital songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

2. The Role of the Group Facilitator

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- The facilitator is not a lecturer, expert, or problem-solver.
- The facilitator is a shepherd of conversation and a guardian of the groups spiritual tone.
- The goal is not right answers, but faithful engagement and transformation.

2. The Role of the Group Facilitator

Core Responsibilities

- Keep Scripture central
- Encourage broad participation
- Protect the emotional and spiritual safety of the group
- Trust the Holy Spirit to do the transforming work

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Key Principle

Good facilitation creates space; it doesn't *dominate* it.

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Which of these responsibilities feels most natural to you? Which feels most challenging?

3. Leading Spiritually Formative Conversations

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Types of Questions

- **Observation questions:** What do you notice in the text?
- **Interpretation questions:** What does this reveal about God or humanity?
- **Application questions:** What changes do I need to make in my thinking, attitude, emotions or behavior?

3. Leading Spiritually Formative Conversations

Best Practices

- Ask open-ended questions
- Allow silence—don't rush to fill it
- Affirm participation without evaluating responses
- Gently redirect when discussion becomes abstract or theoretical

3. Leading Spiritually Formative Conversations

Exercise — *Ask formative discussion questions derived from a scriptural observation*

Acts 2:1–4 (ESV)

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

3. Leading Spiritually Formative Conversations

Exercise — *Ask formative discussion questions derived from a scriptural observation*

1. Acts tells us the disciples were “all together in one place.” What do you think they were expecting—and what might they not have been expecting?
2. When you gather with other believers, are you expectant, or more guarded? Why?
3. The Spirit comes suddenly, not because the disciples engineered the moment. What does this tell us about who initiates spiritual transformation?
4. The Holy Spirit arrives as wind and fire. Why are these appropriate symbols of the Holy Spirit?

3. Leading Spiritually Formative Conversations

Key Reminder

Transformation happens SLOWLY, through reflection and honesty—not through pressure or performance.

4. Navigating Group Dynamics with Wisdom and Grace

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4. Navigating Group Dynamics with Wisdom and Grace

Common Group Challenges

- The Dominant Talker
- The Silent Participant
- The Chronic Skeptic or Derailer
- Conflict or Emotional Tension

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4. Navigating Group Dynamics with Wisdom and Grace

Guiding Principles

- Lead with patience, not control
- Address patterns gently and privately when needed
- Maintain clarity about group purposes and expectations
- Keep Christ, not personalities, at the center

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Insight

Healthy groups are not conflict-free; they are guided well through tension

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