

# Adult Discipleship Leader S.K.I.L.L. Lesson #1

---

## 8 Checkpoints for Discipleship Leaders

### Leadership Practices for the Road to Spiritual Transformation

A discipleship leader has the awesome privilege of being a part of spiritual transformation in the lives of adults. Whether the group is meeting for a shorter season or for a longer period of time, there are some checkpoints along the way for leaders – things they can do as they lead to aid in spiritual transformation among those in their group. Of course, God is the author of spiritual transformation in His people, but allows leaders the awesome privilege of being used in this process. In this conference, we will suggest 8 leadership practices for DISCIPLE-making discipleship leaders.

*Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. 1 Peter 5:2-4 NIV*

#### **DISCOVER** their spiritual needs

Every adult has a reason for choosing a discipleship group or study that is tied to a spiritual need in their life. Understanding the spiritual needs of your group members will help you plan sessions that meet those needs. Asking questions as your group begins and throughout the session will help you determine what those needs are.

#### **INVITE** the Holy Spirit

Ultimately, spiritual transformation happens through the power of God by the work of His Spirit in the hearts of His people. As leaders, we must posture ourselves to invite the Holy Spirit into our preparation as well as into the times we meet together as a group. Upon this invitation, we must position ourselves to embrace God's movement in and through us.

#### **STUDY** in advance

Leaders are best prepared to lead when they have completely studied the material prior to leading a group. However, time does not always lend itself to the opportunity for complete preparation. Leaders should be at least one session ahead of the group, allowing time and thought to prepare for the next session.

# Adult Discipleship Leader S.K.I.L.L. Lesson #1

---

## **C**HOOSE to be creative

Adults respond to and remember creative moments when they understand a concept or hear God speak to them in an area of their life. Take time to add creative elements into each session. This will help you teach in a fresh way that the group members will remember. If you do not find yourself to be a creative leader, involve others who have a creative gift in your planning.

## **I**NTERCEDE for your group

The privilege is ours as leaders to pray for those in our group, giving them to God as he molds them. What an amazing time for leaders to pray for group members individually and to see fruit from their prayers from week to week.

## **P**LAN for sharing

We give God glory when we tell the story of what he is doing in our lives. Weave in opportunities for your group to share what they are learning and how they are growing in Christ. Opportunities for group members to share build relationships within the group and serve as a gauge for where people are in their discipleship journey.

## **L**OVE your group

While under your shepherding care as a leader, take time to love your group members. Contact them when they miss a session, check on them when they are ill, hurting or grieving. Let them know that their leader loves them through these times. A small and simple ministry touch goes a long way and is exactly what Jesus modeled for leaders.

## **E**NCOURAGE completion

Adults have such great intentions and desire to grow in their faith. Many times, however, distractions come their way and leave their time and involvement in question. During the course of discipleship study, encourage your group to persevere and stay the course so they can finish well. As a leader, one small thing that you may say to encourage them could make the difference in their week.

# Adult Discipleship Leader S.K.I.L.L. Lesson #1

---

## Listening Guide

### 8 Checkpoints for Discipleship Leaders

#### Leadership Practices for the Road to Spiritual Transformation

A discipleship leader has the awesome privilege of being a part of spiritual transformation in the lives of adults. Whether the group is meeting for a shorter season or for a longer period of time, there are some checkpoints along the way for leaders – things they can do as they lead to aid in spiritual transformation among those in their group. Of course, God is the author of spiritual transformation in His people, but allows leaders the awesome privilege of being used in this process. In this conference, we will suggest 8 leadership practices for DISCIPLE-making discipleship leaders.

*Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. 1 Peter 5:2-4 NIV*

**D**\_\_\_\_\_ their spiritual needs

Every adult has a reason for choosing a discipleship group or study that is tied to a spiritual need in their life. Understanding the spiritual needs of your group members will help you plan sessions that meet those needs. Asking questions as your group begins and throughout the session will help you determine what those needs are.

**I**\_\_\_\_\_ the Holy Spirit

Ultimately, spiritual transformation happens through the power of God by the work of His Spirit in the hearts of His people. As leaders, we must posture ourselves to invite the Holy Spirit into our preparation as well as into the times we meet together as a group. Upon this invitation, we must position ourselves to embrace God's movement in and through us.

**S**\_\_\_\_\_ in advance

Leaders are best prepared to lead when they have completely studied the material prior to leading a group. However, time does not always lend itself to the opportunity for complete preparation. Leaders should be at least one session ahead of the group, allowing time and thought to prepare for the next session.

# Adult Discipleship Leader S.K.I.L.L. Lesson #1

---

## Listening Guide

**C**\_\_\_\_\_ to be creative

Adults respond to and remember creative moments when they understand a concept or hear God speak to them in an area of their life. Take time to add creative elements into each session. This will help you teach in a fresh way that the group members will remember. If you do not find yourself to be a creative leader, involve others who have a creative gift in your planning.

**I**\_\_\_\_\_ for your group

The privilege is ours as leaders to pray for those in our group, giving them to God as he molds them. What an amazing time for leaders to pray for group members individually and to see fruit from their prayers from week to week.

**P**\_\_\_\_\_ for sharing

We give God glory when we tell the story of what he is doing in our lives. Weave in opportunities for your group to share what they are learning and how they are growing in Christ. Opportunities for group members to share build relationships within the group and serve as a gauge for where people are in their discipleship journey.

**L**\_\_\_\_\_ your group

While under your shepherding care as a leader, take time to love your group members. Contact them when they miss a session, check on them when they are ill, hurting or grieving. Let them know that their leader loves them through these times. A small and simple ministry touch goes a long way and is exactly what Jesus modeled for leaders.

**E**\_\_\_\_\_ completion

Adults have such great intentions and desire to grow in their faith. Many times, however, distractions come their way and leave their time and involvement in question. During the course of discipleship study, encourage your group to persevere and stay the course so they can finish well. As a leader, one small thing that you may say to encourage them could make the difference in their week.