

Disciple Bible Study - Week Three Conversation Guide

Opening (10 minutes)

- Use this time to check in with each other and to share how things are going.
- Devotional
- I would suggest that you gather the prayer concerns here. That will help the group to understand the space of those who are participating. Someone should make a list of any prayer requests to divide at the end of the session.

Settling In (5 minutes)

- Review the Conversation Guide to see what will be part of the discussion later.
- Identify anything from your reading that stuck out for you, that you have questions about, or was particularly inspiring.
 - You can either choose to discuss them at this point or see where they might fit in during the larger conversation.

Exploring Key Concepts (20 minutes)

While sin is never used in these passages it certainly seems present. What is your definition of sin? The UCC Statement of Faith makes the claim that God saves us from “sin and aimlessness.” How does that statement resonate with you and what does it mean?

Forgiveness is not explicitly referenced in these readings either. Do you see evidence of it? How? What does it mean?

Looking at the First Two Stories (15 minutes)

The stories of Adam and Eve as well as Cain and Abel are foundational stories. Break into two groups (one can stay on Zoom and the other can do a conference phone call). One group should look at Cain and Abel while the other looks at Adam and Eve. Spend ten minutes in your groups which will leave five for conversation. Here are the questions:

- What is/are the “sin/sins” in your particular story?
- Sins are relational with tangible outcomes – how do their choices impact relationship with God or each other? What is the initial outcome of the choice?
- When the choices come to the attention of God, what is God’s response? What is the consequence of the choice?
- What new beginning is offered?

Exploring the Word (15 minutes)

Have someone read out loud Genesis 9:1-19. What does this story tell us about God? What does it tell us about Noah? What does it say about the relationship between God and humanity?

Other Items of Interest (5 minutes) – Here is where you can add other topics

Departing (5 minutes)

- Look at the chapter for next week.
- Share any additional prayer concerns and invite people to honor one prayer of another person in the week to come.
- Close with the Lord’s Prayer or invite someone to share a blessing.