

LIFE GROUP GUIDE - Week Starting Sunday 4th January 2026

Matthew 28:16-20

This Week's BIG IDEA

Discipleship is God's strategy for seeing His Kingdom breakthrough in our lives. It requires intentionality—choosing to follow Jesus closely like an apprentice—and inspiration, as the Holy Spirit breathes fresh desire, devotion, and confidence into us. In 2026 we grow as Kingdom bringers through intentional, Spirit-filled discipleship. Jesus' following of his father – which is the very essence of discipleship – was based on his total security in the love of the Father but was also intentional and inspired. Our discipleship starts and ends with God's unconditional love expressed in his grace towards us. However, being intentional is not legalism, it is simply imitating Christ in our activity. Let us follow the example of Christ this year as we seek to follow God together.

Focussing on God

Before discussing anything, spend a few minutes in simple worship. Invite the Holy Spirit to inspire fresh desire for Jesus as you enter the new year.

Read together:

- **Hebrews 12:1-3** – “Fixing our eyes on Jesus...”
- **Psalm 96:1-6** – “Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise...”

Encourage the group to be still, breathe, and welcome God's presence. Allow the presence of God to stir people to pray out prayers of thanks and even start a song if they feel confident enough.

Missional Conversations

Take time for people to share any missional moments they had over the Christmas holidays:

- Conversations about faith.
- Opportunities to serve or show grace.
- Moments where God nudged you toward someone.
- Any disappointments or things you'd like prayer for.

Celebrate the small things—these are signs of Kingdom breakthrough.

Spend a few moments praying for those on your lost lists.

Discipleship Discussion

- Where did you see intentional discipleship shaping your life in 2025?
- In what area of your life do you most want to grow as an “apprentice of Jesus” this year?
- What are you hoping God will do in you personally in 2026?
- What are you hoping God will do **through you**—in your workplace, family, friendships, or neighbourhood?

Prayer

It is so easy to focus on being intentional and forget that before Jesus did anything he had his identity affirmed by his father and was filled afresh with the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:13-4:1). Take some time to pray for one another to be filled with the Holy Spirit.