



Informational Meeting

# INVESTIGATIVE GROUPS

- What is an Investigative Group?
  - It is a group that gathers for a short duration to investigate Jesus...
  - for those brand new to the Bible and to Christ

[\*\* Remember to use "INVESTIGATIVE GROUPS" much more than you use "igroups." \*\*]

Two points we want to make right off the bat.

1) groups will meet for a short duration. Don't say Short-Term because we may confuse folks.

2) ...for those brand new to the Bible and to Christ. Avoid using: unbelievers, non-Christians. Another good way to say it is "those unfamiliar with Jesus Christ." Our leaders may not know where the participants are at spiritually. Some may be young believers, others nominal believers, others inquisitive seekers. Our job is to foster the discussion around Jesus found in the gospels.

# INVESTIGATIVE GROUPS

- What is an Investigative Group?
  - Groups will meet for 4 to 6 weeks in homes, restaurants or businesses.
  - Groups can be from 2 to 12 participants.
  - Groups will have a majority of members that are new to the Bible.

[This slide is to further clarify the distinctives of an Investigative Group.]

- 1) Groups can meet anywhere from 4 to 6 weeks depending on the availability of the leader and participants. Although the leader should have a plan about how long the group will meet before they first gathering.
- 2) Group size is flexible. A group can be a one on one meeting to discuss the biblical passage or as large as twelve folks. Size is not important. The key is to investigate Jesus together. Each group will be dependent on the networks of the host.
- 3) An Investigative Group will work best for the newcomers if it is largely stocked with those that are brand new to the Bible. No one wants to go to a group and be the token newbie. They might feel set up and awkward. The group's focus is not on the leader but those new and unfamiliar with the Bible. Their needs, concerns, fears should be considered before those that have walked with Christ for a long time.

# WILL THIS REALLY WORK?

- There is genuine spiritual interest
  - Ecclesiastes 3:11b
  - *God has set eternity in the hearts of men*

[This slide and the next are to argue the case for igroups emotionally and theologically. Let's passionately motivate our people.]

This is a legitimate argument that many believers fall into. "No one is really interested in the story of Jesus. Isn't Christianity irrelevant?"

If you have a personal story of someone you were surprised by that you thought would never have any spiritual interest. Mine is my brother Al.

God is still at work wooing people to himself. Ecc 3 says he has put a desire for eternity deep within our soul. A quick look at John 3:16 reminds us of a God who loves us passionately, who wants us to know him, who has done everything so that we could experience life an wholeness.

# WILL THIS REALLY WORK?

- The Apostle Paul knew he needed help
- Colossians 4:2-6

Here is the Apostle Paul's appeal for help to reach out to others. Paul knew he could not do it on his own. In fact, many times he was overwhelmed with the difficulties of ministry.

Read Colossians 4:2-6

Point out what the Apostle asked prayer for:

- 1) Prayer that God would open a door ...for the message
- 2) Prayer that he would clearly explain the truth.

Then Paul encourages us to:

- a) Act wisely toward outsiders.
- b) Be full of gracious actions

Our job as we move towards our Investigative Groups is to pray the Lord moves before us and that we walk with wisdom, kindness and grace.

# CURRICULUM

- Curriculum will be provided.
- Gospel accounts will focus on:
  - Discussion and interaction
  - Providing an accurate picture of Jesus

We will have you six discussion guides from the Gospels.

It is vital that that the discussion be a biggest part of the time together. The more discussion occurs the more profitable it will be for the participants.

Because we desire conversation leaders need to be aware that some off the wall comments will be made. This is a good sign when it happens. It means the group is a safe place for all to share their views. As participants express their reaction to the Biblical account and hear others reactions they will have time to consider their beliefs. Some will begin to rethink their views.

We also want Jesus to be what is discussed. What everybody's church or their opinions Christians and Christianity are not as important. We desire that each participant looks perhaps for the first time at who Jesus truly is. It is a beautiful thing to watch people hear an accurate description of Jesus.

# POPULATING

- Filling groups will be done by the leaders.
- From their own networks and relationships
- We'll train you how to best fill your group

Groups will be filled by each leader. You can draw your group together by:

...inviting from friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, from parents of your children's friends.

...we will show how to invite them. we will help you to craft a good letter.

...all this will be explained at our Training day.

## NEXT STEPS

- Saturday February 5th -- igroup Training
- Read “Just Walk Across the Room”
- March 6th -- Groups begin meeting

Still curious? We want to equip you to lead an Investigative Group. Our Training will be Saturday Feb 5th

...at the Green Campus

...in East End, (enter through door D)

...from 9 to noon

We will give you all the tools you'll need to get you started. We will also provided assistance through coaches who'll help clarify and lend wisdom.

Join us as we read through Just Walk Across the Room. We have a few copies that we will give you if you promise to read it and then pass it on to someone else who will also continue that pattern. We will be carrying on a discussion online at our leaders site [abfleaders.com](http://abfleaders.com)