

**Focusing On Jesus
In A Distracted World**



**Jesus
Centered**

**3 Strategic Conversations
Team Guide**

Steve A. Brown

How To Use This Guide

This guide aims to help your team process and apply the content of Jesus Centered through three strategic conversations.

Each discussion is set in this basic framework:

Starter Question

A starter question is a fairly general open-ended question that helps the group to reconnect and begin to focus. Share the question and then give 30 seconds of quiet reflection time to allow people to process and be ready to share. Invite everyone to respond. If people are able to share early in a discussion they are more likely to keep sharing in the discussion.

Feel free to add a pre-starter question like: What's a word or phrase to describe your world since we last met? This kind of question can help the group catch up with one another and be a community that celebrates and cares for one another. This kind of question also helps you gauge where people are at as you enter the study and discussion.

Reflections

This section uses an adapted version of the Swedish Bible Study method. Ask your group to reflect on the three areas below as they read the chapters ahead of time. When you meet together, you can go through each of the three areas and ask for reflections



Review: Summarize the key ideas from the section. Note any difficult to understand portions.



Highlights: Share what stood out to each personally. A new thought? An illustration? A quote?



Arrows: Develop three action steps or applications - a personal one, team one, organizational one

Prayer Ideas

This section provides some ideas for prayer. Choose what fits and what's comfortable. Feel free to go in other directions based on the needs of the group - i.e. are there some specific needs for people in the group?

What's Next?

Before your group breaks, this section is a reminder to determine...

- When and where will we meet next time?
- What is our homework?
- Who is on to help?

Simple Best Practices for Leading the Discussion

Set-Up

Make sure you have seating for everyone you expect and extra seats readily available. Everyone should be able to see one another. Good lighting is important and some soft background music can help set the tone as people arrive.

Snacks

Food and drinks are always appreciated and they help build community. Choose when you will enjoy snacks—before you get started, during a break in the midst of discussion or at the end of the session. Remember to be sensitive to allergies and to have healthy options available.

Share the Load

Try not to do everything. Get others involved. Ask people ahead of time if they could: bring a snack, host, help with room set-up, be ready to pray at the start, read aloud something for the group, etc.

Pray

Ahead of meeting, ask God to guide you and the group. Pray that the group would be a safe space to connect and encourage one another. Pray for each group member.

Remind

Send a reminder text or email two days ahead of time. Include when and where you are meeting, any homework and who is on to help in some way.

Warm Welcome

Be sure to personally and warmly welcome each person as they arrive. Help introduce people to one another as needed. Let people know where the restroom is located if the location is new for anyone.

Give Processing Space

Some people in your group will need more time to process their thoughts before they are willing to answer out loud. A simple way to help them is to say, "In a moment, I'd like to go around the circle and ask for your input on this question _____. But, before we do, let's take 30 seconds of quiet to get our thoughts together."

Help Excessive Talkers

Some people in your group may be external processors or begin to dominate discussion. One way to help them is to say, "NAME, thanks for being so ready and open to sharing, let's take a moment to hear what others are thinking."

Part 1 - (pp. 1-43)

Being Led More by Jesus

Starter Question

How do you usually respond to disruptions to your plans?

Reflections



Review: Summarize the key ideas from the section. Note any difficult to understand portions.

What does it mean to:

- Follow Him
- Abide in Him
- Be loved by Him
- Be Grounded in Him



Highlights: Share what stood out to each personally. A new thought? An illustration? A quote?



Arrows: Develop three action steps or applications - a personal one, team one, organizational one

Is there a new rhythm, practice or mindset that you need to implement in response to this section?

- As an individual
- As a team
- As an organization

Prayer Ideas

Take a few moments to declare why Jesus is trustworthy to follow. List some specific reasons from Scripture or from your experience. Thank Him for His faithfulness and for who He is.

Give some space for the group to reflect on anything they might be holding onto for security right now other than Jesus. Then invite the group to fill in this prayer: “Lord, I release my hold of _____.”

Pray the prayer from page 14 together.

What's Next?

Determine...

- When and where will we meet next time?
- What is our homework?
- Who is on to help?

Part 2 - (pp. 45-124)

Leading More Like Jesus

Starter Question

Who is a brilliant person, from any point in history, that you'd like to have coffee with? Why?

Reflections



Review: Summarize the key ideas from the section. Note any difficult to understand portions.

What does it mean to:

- Think like im
- Serve like Him
- Respond like Him
- Pursue Holiness like Him
- Find Rhythms like Him
- Develop like Him



Highlights: Share what stood out to each personally. A new thought? An illustration? A quote?



Arrows: Develop three action steps or applications - a personal one, team one, organizational one

Is there a new rhythm, practice or mindset that you need to implement in response to this section?

- As an individual
- As a team
- As an organization

Prayer Ideas

Reflect on the list below and lift up Jesus in prayer with awe.
Jesus is...

- ...the Word (John 1:1)
- ...God incarnate (John 1:14)
- ...the Lamb of God (John 1:29)
- ...the bread of life (John 6:35)
- ...the light of the world (John 8:12)
- ...the gate (John 10:9)
- ...the good shepherd (John 10:11)
- ...the resurrection and the life (John 11:25)
- ...the true vine (John 15:1)
- ...the Holy One of God (Mark 1:24)
- ...the King of kings (Revelation 7:14)
- ...the Son of the living God (Matthew 16:13-17)
- ...the head of the church (Ephesians 5:23)
- ...the Lord of lords (Revelation 19:16)
- ...the Prince of peace (Isaiah 9:6)
- ...the one who serves (Luke 22:27)
- ...a friend to sinners (Luke 7:34)
- ...Immanuel, God with us (Matthew 1:23)
- ...our Savior (Luke 2:11)
- ...our advocate (1 John 2:1)
- ...our healer (James 5:15)
- ...our righteousness, holiness and redemption (1 Corinthians 1:30)
- ...our redeemer (Matthew 1:21)
- ...our model (Philippians 2:5-6)
- ...the Alpha and Omega (Revelation 22:13)

Pray the prayer on page 69 together.

What's Next?

Determine...

- When and where will we meet next time?
- What is our homework?
- Who is on to help?

Part 3 - (pp. 125-172)

Leading More To Jesus

Starter Question

What's a dream you have for your city, your country or the world?

Reflections



Review: Summarize the key ideas from the section. Note any difficult to understand portions.

What does it mean to:

- Seek His Kingdom
- Point the Lost to Him
- Build Bridges to Him
- Pray for Others to Follow Him



Highlights: Share what stood out to each personally. A new thought? An illustration? A quote?



Arrows: Develop three action steps or applications - a personal one, team one, organizational one

Is there a new rhythm, practice or mindset that you need to implement in response to this section?

- As an individual
- As a team
- As an organization

Prayer Ideas

Since each member of the group has a role in God's work in the world, pray a commissioning blessing over each person—their role in a family, neighborhood, school, workplace, church, community, etc.

Read Isaiah 61:1-2 and pray for God's heart to be realized in our world.

Pray the prayer on page 136 together.

What's Next?

Determine...

- When and where will we meet next time?
- What is our homework?
- Who is on to help?