

The Pilgrim Fellowship*

Friendship is core

- Jesus Christ called his disciples his friends. He encouraged them to become like him and to let good things flow out of their lives.
- Friends of Jesus around the world are people on a journey; pilgrims who recognize the voice of the Good Shepherd and seek to obey him.
(John 10:1-18; 15:12-17)

Fellowship work is simple

Two or three of the same gender come together weekly for an hour and a half and encourage each other to live authentic spiritual lives. They train their ability to “hear,” soften their hearts and look around them to see whether others need to experience the friendship of Christ. When the group has added a fourth member it may be time to think about forming two groups from the one.

- Jesus said, “*For where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them* (Matt. 18:20).”

Three weekly assignments

1. Regular Bible reading & listening: The group chooses several chapters to have as meditation material for the week. Each person reads daily asking God to speak to him or her. We recommend 20 to 30 chapters in context (e.g. Matt. 5-7 seven times or all of John’s gospel). **Note:** If anyone has not finished the reading as agreed, the group should read the same assignment again for the next time.
He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught (Isa. 50:4b).

2. Authentic conversation: Knowledge of God leads to godly practice. We know that the heart is part of the inner person and the seat of repentance. Christian repentance means allowing the Word of God to move in one’s inner being so that one acknowledges the truth.

Above all, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life (Prov. 4:23).

In order to both guard and soften our hearts we open ourselves up to each other by asking the following questions at our meetings. Keep in mind that each person should answer. Note: This is not a time to correct one another but rather to listen and learn.

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Weekly meeting questions:

1. Have you experienced Christ at work in your life this past week? If so, how?
2. Have you been made aware that you are God's beloved child this week? If so, how?
3. Did you complete the reading and listening as planned?
4. What has God been teaching you? What has God been emphasizing through what you read?
5. Do you have any sins you need to confess? (I.e. Things in my life that come between me and God, distance me from his will and estrange me from myself and others?)
6. How do you intend to respond to what God is saying to you?
7. Do you believe that anyone has seen Christ in you this past week? Who may have sensed that you are a friend and learner of Jesus?

3. Intercessory prayer: We pray for other people that God's good will may be accomplished in them and that the friendship of Christ will become a reality in their lives.

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective (James 5:16).

Each group member names two or three individuals that God has placed on his or her heart. All the names are placed on a prayer list for each pilgrim to keep in mind before the Lord. Each meeting can end with prayer for these individuals.

Some sample prayers:

- Dear Jesus, I call on you on behalf of _____. Let him/her experience your friendship and fill his/her life with your hope. (Ps. 62:5-7; Rom. 5:5)
- Lord, please allow _____ to know you better. (John 8:31; Acts 17:27)
- Dear God, May _____ have ears to hear the voice of your Son and follow him. (John 10:3).

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