

Called  
to Grow  
in  
God

A Triad Bridge Group  
Curriculum

First Baptist Church  
Grand Blanc, Michigan

## Purpose of this Triad Group Meeting:

- + To enjoy a meaningful time with friends, or new acquaintances.
- + To take time to share, talk, laugh, think, study and pray.
- + To focus on what the Bible teaches about how: God calls us to Grow.
- + To meet four times to experience being part of a short-term Triad group.

What is a Triad: A Triad is a group of three or four people who meet together for faith-building and friendship-building. The end result is Christian discipleship (growth) that is personal and practical.

### The Triad Bridge:

This four week Triad Bridge Group is designed to allow participants to discover how a Triad works, and test the whole thing out. If you like the experience, you can continue for a five to ten month journey as a Triad. If you want to wait, that's fine too. You can try out other short-term thematic studies, or form another group later. Your group may also have other ideas for doing things together to grow in your faith, and that's fine too. Just let us know how it goes, and how we can help you with resources, or answer questions. - Pastor Scott

**"Discipleship is not a program, it is a pilgrimage shared among friends."**

BEFORE YOU BEGIN >>>> READ CAREFULLY<<<<<<<<<<<

1. This experience might just give you joy and warmth in your heart.
2. MAKE a commitment to meet together as a group of three or four.
3. Find a common time and place to meet for the next month.

Adjust your schedules now, not later.

4. Let us know that you are meeting, so we can pray for your group.

[www.comefollowjesus.com](http://www.comefollowjesus.com) (our website for discipleship)

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(not so convenient tear off sign up form)

God Calls Us To Grow. Triad Group

WHO \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_  
WHEN Started: \_\_\_\_\_ Email contact: \_\_\_\_\_

## Meeting 1

# God Cares, God Calls

**Key Verse:** *(Yes, you can read it out loud. Go ahead, read it all together at once)*

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (John 3:16-17 NIV)

**Warm up:** Think about several people in your life who have really cared about you. Who are they? Write their names down.

Go ahead, don't be shy, share who these people are. *(start with whoever is most brightly dressed today)*

**Questions:** *(If nobody has taken charge by now, kindly pick someone to lead)*

1. When your group talked about the people who have cared for you, what were some common things mentioned about these people? (for example: kindness)

If you came up with 7 or more things, then you may advance.

*(If not, you must roll doubles to get out of mental doldrums.)*

2. Which of these qualities do you feel you offer to a friendship?

3. Which of these qualities do you immediately associate with Jesus?

## The B.I.B.L.E. (*Yes, God's Word calls to us*)

In John 3:16-17 (on the previous page, but let's break it down to each verse)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (16)

1. Who are the key subjects of this passage?
2. What are the key verbs? What do they tell us about why Jesus said this?
3. How is God calling to people today through this passage?
4. How has God impacted your life through this message?

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (17)

1. When Jesus said: "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand." (Matthew 4:17)  
How would that call relate to verse 17 above?
2. Why is easier to talk about salvation than it is to talk about condemnation?
3. Jesus was God's greatest gift, what has Jesus saved you from?

Think about a specific situation, or time in your life, when you knew that Jesus was there to help you. (After you have talked about this, take time to pray. If someone in the group wants prayer support, include them in your prayer time below).

**CLOSING PRAYER** God, thank you for calling out to us through Jesus, your Son. May we trust Him as Savior, and surrender our hearts to Him as Lord. ....Amen.

## Meeting 2

# Called Out of our Sleep

### Key Verse:

Ephesians 5:14 "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

### Experience:

Have you ever been woken up out of your sleep by the voice of someone calling you?

Of course, but what type of awakening are you talking about here?

Perhaps it was a child, or your husband or wife. Maybe it was a phone call.

Hopefully it wasn't someone calling out: "Fire!!!"

Maybe it was someone who was being gentle, and they whispered your name.

God calls us out of our sleep sometimes. Whether it's natural sleep or supernatural sleep, that is, spiritual. God will speak when we need to be awakened. There may be danger. There may be an opportunity. There may be a need that we are numb to. There may be a problem we haven't dealt with. There may be an illness we have to attend to. There may be someone who needs understanding. There may even be a blessing, and we need to get our \_\_\_\_\_ out of bed.

### Warm up:

Share some stories about being woken up at night by a voice, or by someone speaking to you in a dream.

+ Mention those times that it was startling.

+ Mention those times that you were glad that someone did wake you up.

+ Mention those times you had to wake someone else up. Were they glad or mad?

### Reflection: *(Oh, and yes discuss the questions if you care, or if you dare.)*

Jesus got up one morning early and went to a lonely place, a quiet place, because He knew how much He needed to hear what His Father wanted to talk with Him about. While there is nothing in that story that tells us that Jesus was called out of His sleep, we realize that Jesus was deeply in tune with His Father, and was attentive to heed His call. He made it a priority to have time with His Father, to be still and be blessed, so as to bless.

Jesus calls us to wake up spiritually by faith, and to walk in this faith. There are many people who are dead spiritually, alienated from a relationship with the one true Living God. They have not received God's gift of grace in Jesus Christ. They don't know Christ as the way, the truth and life. Therefore, they have not come to salvation, and are asleep. Movie titles seem to fit so many people's spiritual condition: "Dead Man Walking", or "Night of the Living Dead."

How are people spiritually or mentally sleeping? What makes people dead to God?

How can we truly be alive to God? What does it take to be spiritually awake?

## CONSIDER GOD'S CALL

Read I Samuel 3:1-10

<sup>1</sup> The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions.<sup>2</sup> One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. <sup>3</sup> The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup> Then the LORD called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am." <sup>5</sup> And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down. <sup>6</sup> Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

"My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." <sup>7</sup> Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. <sup>8</sup> The LORD called Samuel a third time, and Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup> So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. <sup>10</sup> The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

1. Since God's Word was rare in those days, what does that tell us about people's spiritual condition?
2. God is patient with Samuel, why?
3. What is beautiful about Samuel's statement: "Speak, for your servant is listening?"
4. How would you apply this story to today? To yourself?

ASLEEP IN THE BOAT. (Matthew 8:23-27)

<sup>23</sup> Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. <sup>24</sup> Without warning, a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. <sup>25</sup> The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" <sup>26</sup> He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. <sup>27</sup> The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"

1. Why did Jesus step into the boat and go to sleep, knowing that there would be a storm?
2. What was Jesus trying to teach them?
3. Do people sometimes think of God as being asleep? How so?

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, we confess that sometimes we are not alert and aware. We confess that we need to listen and say, "Here I am, Lord". Forgive us for our lack of faith, help us to overcome our fears as we trust in your redeeming power. We pray in Jesus name, Amen.

## Meeting 3

# Called to Follow Jesus

**Key Verse:** Mark 1:17-18

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him.

**Warm up:**

Have someone start a conversation. They will speak only a sentence about something interesting that happened within the last day. (Your Aunt Millie sold her pickle farm to a retiring embalmer. Whatever!) Then the person to their right will say something interesting that happened to them, with only a sentence, using a word from your sentence. (Well you know, I found an old jar of pickles in my refrigerator yesterday, dated over four years old.) Keep going around a few times doing this. See what happens. (What you say does not have to relate to what the person next to you said, other than using a word they use.)

Would you recommend this form of communication for leading a group?

Why not?

Do people ever wonder if their life is simply going in circles, without purpose or direction?

How can this pattern be broken? What do we need to discover?

**BIBLE STUDY:** (Matthew 4:18-22)

<sup>18</sup> As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." <sup>20</sup> At once they left their nets and followed him.

<sup>21</sup> Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, <sup>22</sup> and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

1. What is so amazing about the way that Jesus called out to them?
2. Why do you think that the disciples left everything and followed Him?
3. As Jesus calls us today, what might each of us have to drop in order to better follow His leading?
4. Jesus gave them a vision for their life. In what way has Jesus given you a vision for your life?
5. In what ways does He come to us daily?
6. In what ways do we follow Jesus daily?  
or....  
In what ways may you struggle to follow Him daily?

TAKE A MOMENT to BREATHE. (Don't be too hard on yourself.)

Jesus said: <sup>28</sup> "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

THAT'S GOOD NEWS!! as long as I remember who is with me, leading beside me.

Share: One area in your life that you are finding Jesus helping you with.  
One important lesson Jesus is teaching you about.  
One burden that Jesus is giving you strength to carry.  
One joy that Jesus has placed in your heart to encourage you with.  
One area in your life that you are letting go of, so you can follow better.

Prayer: *(Take time to go around and pray. Have someone conclude with the following prayer.)*

Lord Jesus, help us to follow you in faith. We trust you, as we embark upon the path of your calling. May we let go of what is important to us, so we may

affirm what is important to You and our Heavenly Father. Amen.

## Meeting 4

# Called Into a Family

### KEY VERSE:

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all." He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me." (Mark 9:35-37)

### WARM UP:

Think about a time in your life when people helped you feel accepted.

When was it?

Who was involved?

What did they do to help you feel accepted?

*Now, (Brace Yourself!!!)* Thank about a time in your life when people rejected you.

When was it?

Who was involved? (this one is optional)

What did they do to reject you?

How did you handle the rejection?

### THOUGHTS:

Jesus had a way of making people take a look at the way they treated one another. In the case of the passage above, Jesus welcomed the little children. Even though His disciples thought He was too busy to entertain the children, Jesus welcomed them. He helped them realize how special they were. Jesus was showing us the heart of God, who accepts people at whatever level of maturity or immaturity they may come from. Little children or seeking adults, the key ingredient to following Jesus, and becoming part of God's family in Christ, is simple faith.

Why do you suppose some people are more welcoming than others?

How has Jesus accepted you?

In what ways has Christ helped you accept and welcome others?  
MORE SCRIPTURE... *(Yes, for all you do, this Scripture is for you.)*

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. (Ephesians 4.14-16)

1. Paul gives the church a wonderful vision of what life might look like if everyone started growing up together in Christ. What does he suggest are the problems?

2. What can be done for the church to overcome and grow as God intended?

3. What is your part in the Body of Christ?

An eye? What visions has God given you for the future of the church?

An ear? What callings or concerns do you hear?

A nose? What problems have you detected and sniffed out?

A mouth? What good word have you shared to encouraged someone with?

Feet? Where has God guided you to share the gospel of Jesus Christ?

Hands? Who have you comforted today? *Do you wave at people you don't know?*

Neck? When was the last time you made someone else look good?

**PRAYER:** *(Take turns to pray, then include this prayer if so led.)*

Lord Jesus, you call us to come to you. Help us to love people the way you do. May we show acceptance to those who are often rejected. Heal our brokenness with your gift of grace. We thank you that you have given us a family of faith in the church. We pray for the church and it's ministries, that we may love others unconditionally, the way You O Lord love them.

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Take some time to talk about what you want to do next.

Do you want to form a 5 -10 month triad group? (Faith, Friendship and Fruitfulness).

Do you want to be in another 3 -4 person group for four meetings of prayer?

Let us know what's up, and what God is calling You to do next? How was this study?

(Call us at 694-9136 church, or email at [arnoldeagle@comcast.net](mailto:arnoldeagle@comcast.net).)

Remember, we are on a journey of faith, together we form Christ's body. God is calling to us, to grow through caring ministries.

*Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.* (Ecclesiastes 4:12)