

## Life Group Notes

*These notes are to serve you as you lead your group.*

*Please feel free to select the passages and only use the questions which are most relevant to your group and for the way you want to lead the session. (There are more questions here than you'll need)*

- *Please choose (or adapt) the questions which you believe will bring about the most honest, faith-building and life changing conversations, and add others if you want to.*
- *The readings and questions develop from one section to the next. Please take time to move through the ones you want to use, giving time for discussion and sharing - ideally leading to a response to God's word.*

# Life Group Notes

Theme: Following Jesus Week 4: How do I grow as a Christian?

In the fourth session in our series on questions about the Christian faith, we are looking today at how we grow as followers of Jesus.

## Introductory Questions

- 1. In scripture (especially from Jesus and Paul) we see that growth is normal and expected. Where have you seen growth in your own life over the last year?**
- 2. We may notice various reactions when we talk about growth, with some people being expectant, and others feeling pressured into growing. What is your response to talking about growth?**

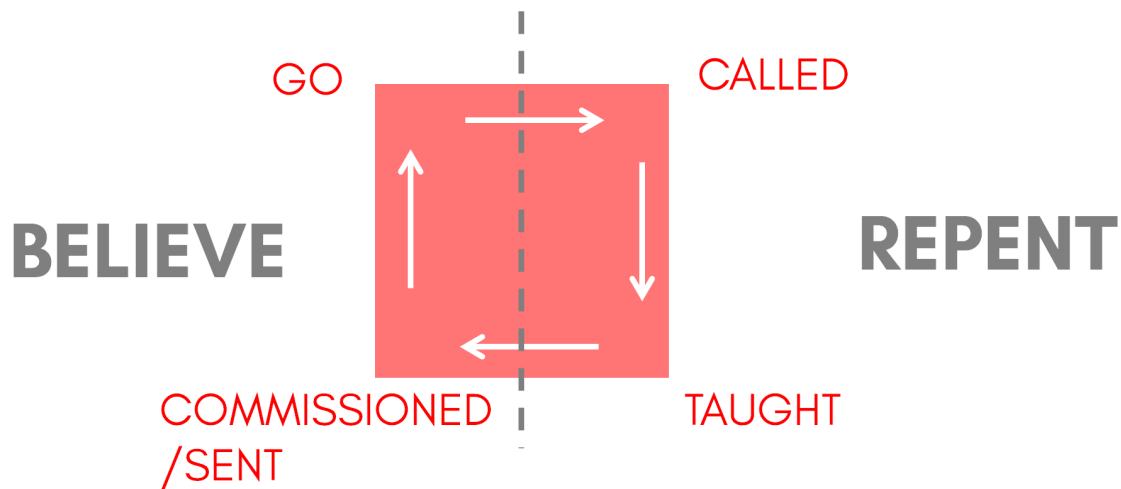
## Read Luke 9:1-17

In this passage we see Jesus helping the disciples to grow. Having already called them and taught them, he then called them to himself, commissioned and sent them, and then they went to share the good news of the kingdom of God.

- 3. How challenged are you by Jesus' instruction to take nothing for the journey, but simply go in the authority he had already given? (v3-5)**
- 4. The disciples went, trusting Jesus' words, and they proclaimed the good news and healed the sick. When have you stepped out and taken Jesus at his word? What happened?**

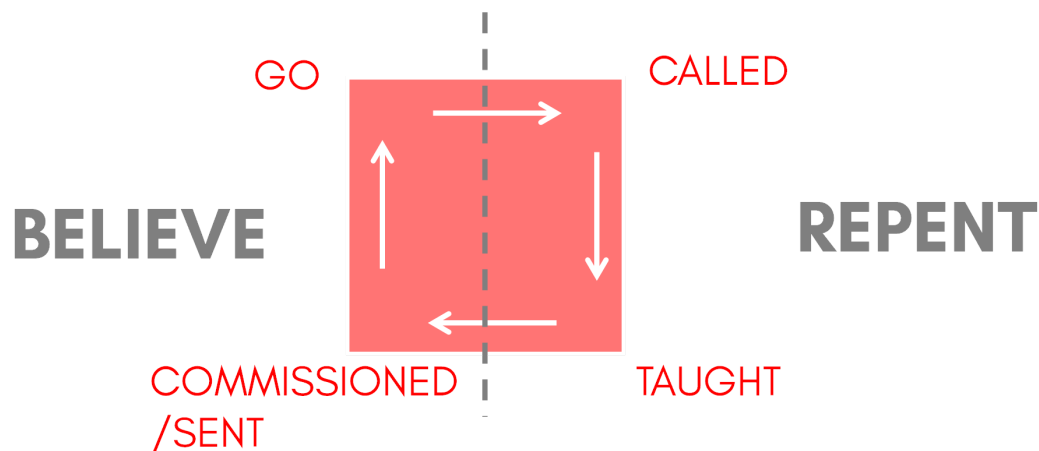
Note from v10 that the disciples returned to Jesus to report back to him. This principle of returning > recommissioning > resending is key to Jesus' method of teaching the disciples. We see in verses 10-17 that growth is not a linear pattern, but a cycle of development led by Jesus.

- 5. What difference does it make to you to know that growth in faith is cyclical, not linear?**
- 6. Looking at the picture below, what phase most reflects your life at the moment?**



7. Despite having just trusted Jesus with everything, in v13 we see that the disciples struggle to trust Jesus' command again. They get stuck after their commission, and don't 'GO' to feed the crowd. **How do you relate to this sense of being 'stuck' at one of these stages?**
8. **Note Jesus' reaction in v14-17. How does Jesus respond to them when they were stuck? How does this encourage you?**
9. The disciples needed to come back to Jesus, and let him teach them again as they needed a change of heart and mind (repent). This was an ongoing experience for them, and is for us too. **In what areas is Jesus leading you to 'repent' by calling you away from some things to himself, and then preparing you for re-commissioning?**
10. The disciples were commissioned and sent by Jesus, and went to serve him. **In what areas of life are you aware that Jesus has commissioned you and you have been sent to serve?**
11. Sometimes we can feel like we are not making any progress, especially when we are struggling with some of the same issues for a long time. Yet, as we progress through this process, even when we come around to familiar issues again, we are not in exactly the same place, but are elevated to a new perspective. **Thinking of the growth in your life in this way, how will you view those times when it may feel as though you are back to where you started?**

## Leadership Development - For Life Groups



This is a helpful tool to help us grow leaders, and to call people to step up in ministry (e.g. in our Life Groups). Thinking of your Life Group, there will be people who have gifting to lead, but who are not doing so yet. Note the pattern Jesus implements, and think of ways of using this over the coming months with some members of your group.

1. **Called** - Jesus' call of his disciples was personal. He did not just ask a wide group for volunteers to take on a task - he approached people individually and called them to follow him. Our call of others works best when we issue a personal invitation to people to take on a new challenge based on the gifting we see in them. Identifying someone's hidden gifting is often very encouraging for them.  
*Thinking of your group, who do you see undeveloped gifting in?*
2. **Taught** - Jesus taught (through example and words) how to do things. Once we've identified and asked someone to do something new, it is helpful to follow up by supporting them with guidance and teaching.  
*Who will you come alongside to teach, and what will you teach?*
3. **Commissioned/sent** - Jesus sent the disciples clearly and overtly. As a result they knew their authority, and were confident to trust him. We can commission and send people to fulfil their call publicly within our groups.  
*How will you commission people to lead in your group?*
4. **Go** - The disciples had a go. It is important to let people have a go at serving Jesus. *Who are you letting have a go?*
5. **Called / return etc** - Just as Jesus' disciples returned to him, and he re-taught them, so it is good for us to give feedback when someone has stepped out, and provide ongoing teaching & shaping. The cycle of growth builds in an expectation that needing to do so is not a failure, but is part of our lives as we grow in our faith. *Who will you feedback to, to help and serve them?*