Leader Preparation

1. Take some time to look over these questions ahead of time. Choose the ones that you want to make sure you cover with your group. We have highlighted what we think are **key questions by bolding them.**
2. Pray for your group and your time together as you prepare. This is so helpful!
3. When meeting online you as the leader will need to be more directive than in person. Don’t be afraid to invite everyone to answer a question, invite them to share by name, and thank them when they finish. The online format requires a little more intentional orchestrating than an in-person group.
4. Try to start the gathering by getting everyone talking at least once to begin. The Hook section is great for this. When in doubt, have people share stories about their past. (How the week was, favorite memories about the topic for the day, etc). This is a great way to help your group continue to get to know one another.
5. Next, look at the Scripture and what it means. We believe Jesus is discipling people through this Word. Get people into the Scriptures and the Scriptures into people!
6. Finally, end with what God is saying to people and how God is inviting them to respond. These aren’t just ideas to know but realities to live in!

Hook - Getting to know one another

* How is everyone doing this week? This could also be an icebreaker question related to the topic for discussion.
1. How was your rest over Christmas and New Year’s? What brought you rest and what prevented it?

Book - Scripture

* Read the scripture, and discuss a few questions to understand **what the text is saying**.
* Read: Genesis 1:1 - 5; 2:1 - 3. See also Psalm 132:13 - 16.
1. These passages have no commands for people to obey but a lot of declarations about what God has done (and through that, what God is like). List everything you can say about what God is like from these Scriptures.
2. What do these passages imply about people and rest? What do you learn about rest from these Scriptures?

Look - Connections to our world today

* This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what’s wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.
1. What is the connection between trusting in God and real rest implied in these Scriptures?
2. How does the vision of rest given in these passages differ from the way our culture approaches rest?

Took - Personal Application

* This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.
1. What is the rest you feel like God is inviting you into this season?
2. What might that rest look like practically?

Time of Prayer