

NCF IN A BAG

Contents and User Guide

USER GUIDE

NCF in a Bag User Guide

BIBLE STUDY*

Caregiver Bible Studies, which include a spiritual diagnostic assessment and an invitation to faith

NCF DISCIPLESHIP

Grow in your identity as a follower of Jesus and a nursing student

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Apprenticeship Material to develop a strong leadership pipeline

TIMELINE

Sample outline of what a typical year looks like for an NCF group

PARTNERSHIP

NCF National Student Ministry Group expectations

FUNDING

Ideas to help fund your group



Thank you so much for saying yes to NCF! NCF is here for you and wants to provide you with all you need to lead a thriving NCF Student Group!

First and foremost, your walk with God is most important. If you haven't already, find 1-3 people who can be praying for you as you lead your group. Take time with Jesus; let him pour into you as you pour into others. Having a thriving relationship with Jesus makes all the difference as you move into ministry leading your group. Reach out to NCF Student Ministries any time to connect for discipleship or coaching:

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NCF IN A BAG

Contents and User Guide



OUR VISION SEEING **STUDENTS**
& **NURSES** KNOW & FOLLOW
JESUS IN **NURSING**

Our vision is to see students and nurses know and follow Jesus in nursing. On campus, this is lived out when nursing students come together in biblically grounded communities, practice effective faith sharing, and utilize comprehensive resources that support integrated whole-person care for and by the nurse. NCF is both a student organization and a professional membership. Check out these helpful links:



Membership
for students



Faculty Advisor
Discounted Membership



Begin with our **Start Something New Planting Guide**

A thriving NCF group has these four components :

There are resources for each of the components in this bag. All four will ensure that you have a thriving NCF group on your campus for years to come. Your group will not only support you now but will also be a place where nursing students can meet Jesus and grow in their faith throughout nursing school.

Thank you again for leading an NCF group on your campus. Reach out anytime for questions and help with your group:



BEGINNING SELF-DIAGNOSTIC

As we explore case studies of Jesus the Caregiver, it's helpful to take a moment and reflect on how our own self-care is going.

RATE YOUR QUALITY OF SELF-CARE THIS WEEK



BAD OKAY GREAT

BODY



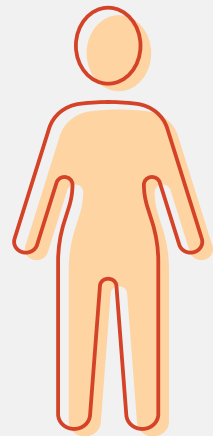
BAD OKAY GREAT

RELATIONSHIPS



BAD OKAY GREAT

SOUL



Let's do a deeper dive into our soul care. Here are five stages of a spiritual journey. Which best describes you?



TRUST

I try to value all kinds of people, but I don't usually trust Christians.



CURIOUS

I'm curious about how other people see and experience the world.



OPEN

I'm curious about how other people see and experience the world.



SEEKING

I'm searching for deeper meaning. Could Jesus be worth following?



FOLLOWING

I'm following Jesus with my whole life. I hope my friends encounter God, too.

Share in your group about your self-assessments. One of the benefits to sharing in a group is that you can learn from the experiences of others. We can grow together. Feel free to ask one another questions to learn more about self-care, soul care, and the spiritual journey.

CAREGIVER CASE STUDY 1



A HEALING TOUCH

Mark 1:40–42

A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, “If you are willing, you can make me clean.” Jesus was indignant [filled with compassion]. He reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.

1 BACKGROUND

- In ancient times, people with skin diseases were automatically considered contagious and “unclean.” They were shunned by society.
- What are your favorite ways of receiving love and care?
- How comfortable are you with giving or receiving touch as a form of care?

2 ASSESSMENT

- What needs do you see in the man who came to Jesus? Consider the whole person and his physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs.
- What about this situation could make Jesus indignant and filled with compassion?
- Picture yourself as the man with leprosy. How would you feel as you interact with Jesus and as Jesus speaks and touches you?
- How do you think this interaction changed this man’s life?

3 LIFE APPLICATION

- Have you ever had to care for someone with a condition that repulsed you or made you uneasy? How did you feel about touching or getting close to them?
- Even if we cannot heal instantly, our touch and presence have an impact. How can you express care through the gift of your touch or presence this week?
- If you could have God touch one part of your body and heal it, what would it be and why? Just as the man asked Jesus for healing, would you like to ask Jesus for something today?



SPIRITUAL PRESCRIPTION

Choose one day this week to bless or encourage as many people as you can. Ask Jesus to give you divine eyesight for opportunities to offer your touch, presence, or words of encouragement. At the end of the day, tell Jesus what caring for others was like. Ask Jesus for any care you may need. Share about your experience with the group at the next gathering.

**from Spiritual Disciplines Handbook by Adele Calhoun*

CAREGIVER CASE STUDY 2



AN EMBARRASSING PROBLEM

Mark 5:24b-34

A large crowd followed and pressed around him. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

1 BACKGROUND

- In ancient Jewish culture, irregular periods were stigmatized. A woman bleeding non-stop for 12 years could not have a normal life and would have been ostracized and shamed in her community.
- How do you tend to react when you feel called out, embarrassed, or ashamed?

3 LIFE APPLICATION

- Jesus cares deeply about the suffering of others and invites us to join his care team. He partners with imperfect individuals like ourselves to accomplish his work. Who are the people in our society who are stigmatized, shamed, or invisible? How can you take steps to bring care and justice to these groups?
- Think about an issue in your body or life that feels vulnerable to share about. If you were to share with Jesus, how do you think he would respond? Would you like to try doing that through Welcoming Prayer?

2 ASSESSMENT

- What physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs do you see in this woman? What do you think her life has been like?
- Picture yourself as this woman. How do you feel throughout the interactions you have with the crowd and Jesus?
- What do you think it meant for this woman and the crowd to hear Jesus say, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering"?



SPIRITUAL PRESCRIPTION

Sit in a comfortable position, and breathe slowly. Scan your body from the top of your head to your toes. Where do you feel any tightness or pain? As you name that place, say, "Welcome, Jesus, welcome," and let any tension go. Breathe deeply. Release. Then think of any issues in your life that you would like to share with Jesus. Name the issues and say, "Welcome, Jesus, welcome."

**from Spiritual Disciplines Handbook by Adele Calhoun*



CAREGIVER CASE STUDY 3

TIRED AND HUNGRY

Mark 6:31-43

Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." So, they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So, he began teaching them many things. By this time, it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. "This is a remote place," they said. Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." But he answered, "You give them something to eat." They told him, "That would take more than half a year's wages! How many loaves do you have?" he asked. "Go and see." When they found out, they said, "Five—and two fish." Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of leftovers.

1 BACKGROUND

- Jesus and his 12 students (disciples) had been working very hard, caring for the masses of people in need. They were tired and hadn't had a chance to eat!
- When was the last time you were so busy that you forgot to eat? How did it feel when you later realized how tired and hungry you were?

2 ASSESSMENT

- Who are the different groups of people in this case study? What are their various physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs?
- What do you like about the unique ways Jesus cares for each of the groups?

3 LIFE APPLICATION

- What would you like Jesus to multiply for you so that you can care for others? Compassion? Energy? Something else?
- Jesus offers care through a special invitation: "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." If Jesus gave our group this invitation today, how would you respond? Is there something you would need from Jesus to take him up on his offer?



SPIRITUAL PRESCRIPTION

Schedule time to eat a meal with someone in this group. Meet in person if you are able or on video chat. Turn off all unnecessary technology to completely focus on eating and enjoying meaningful conversation together. Try these questions: (1) What is on your plate this week? (2) What are your hopes for self-care this week? (3) What help might you need? Group support by text? Prayer?



CAREGIVER CASE STUDY 4



RUNNING OUT OF HOPE

John 5:2–9a

Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?” “Sir,” the invalid

replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

1 BACKGROUND

- Shrines to gods of healing were common in the ancient world. Living with a disability was much more difficult than it is today. Many with disabilities would seek healing by going to a shrine to worship and purify themselves in its pool.
- What is a difficult area of your life where it’s hard to have hope?

2 ASSESSMENT

- What physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs do you see in this man who can’t walk? What do you think his life has been like?
- What did the man’s response to Jesus’ question reveal about his attitude toward his situation?
- What do you like about the unique ways Jesus cares for this man?

3 LIFE APPLICATION

- How can you care for people who express unfulfilled hope or deep frustration in a difficult situation?
- Who or what do you place your hope in? How satisfied are you with that?
- If Jesus invited you to place your ultimate hope and faith in him, how would you respond? How much of your hope and trust are you willing to place in Jesus?



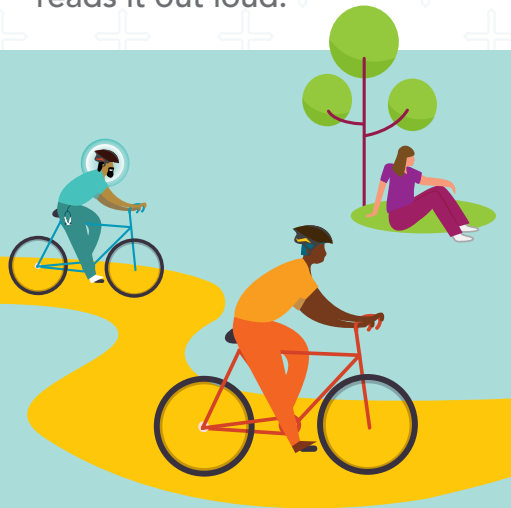
SPIRITUAL PRESCRIPTION

Ask Jesus a question that is on your heart, or share what it would take to trust him. Spend a moment in silence and notice any thoughts, images, sounds, or sensations that you experience. Share as a group.



ENDING SELF-DIAGNOSTIC

Over the last few weeks, we have gathered to discuss and learn together from various case studies of Jesus the Caregiver. These case studies point to the greater story of caregiving from God to us. Let's take a moment now as a group and reflect on that story together as someone reads it out loud.



In the beginning, God created a good world. All our needs were well met. We had the best Caregiver.

But we humans decided that we can meet our own physical, emotional, and spiritual needs without God. As a result, we can see all around us today what is unhealthy about our world. **A world without our Caregiver has led to anxiety, sickness, loneliness, injustice, and everything else that is wrong in our world.** The burden of having to care for ourselves is far too heavy for us alone.



So where does that leave us? Well, God the Caregiver loves us too much to leave us in our suffering. Jesus joined us to bring healing and hope. In his suffering and death, the Ultimate Caregiver took our world's evil to the grave with him. He came back to life to bring new life to us.

Once we invite Jesus into the center of our story, we are part of his community. **We receive Jesus' love, healing, and power daily.** Out of that overflow, we can care for others. Jesus sends us out into the world to join his mission and healing work, together caring for the most vulnerable around us with hope.



LISTENING PRAYER EXERCISE

On your own, tell Jesus how you feel about this story. Ask Jesus a question that is on your heart, or share what it would take to join Jesus' community and invite him into the center of your story. Spend a moment in silence and notice any thoughts, images, sounds, or sensations that you experience. Then share as a group about your experiences.



ENDING SELF-DIAGNOSTIC

Here are five stages of a spiritual journey. Which best describes you?
Is there a different stage you want to be at?



TRUST

I try to value all kinds of people, but I don't usually trust Christians.



CURIOUS

I'm curious about how other people see and experience the world.



OPEN

I'm curious about how other people see and experience the world.



SEEKING

I'm searching for deeper meaning. Could Jesus be worth following?

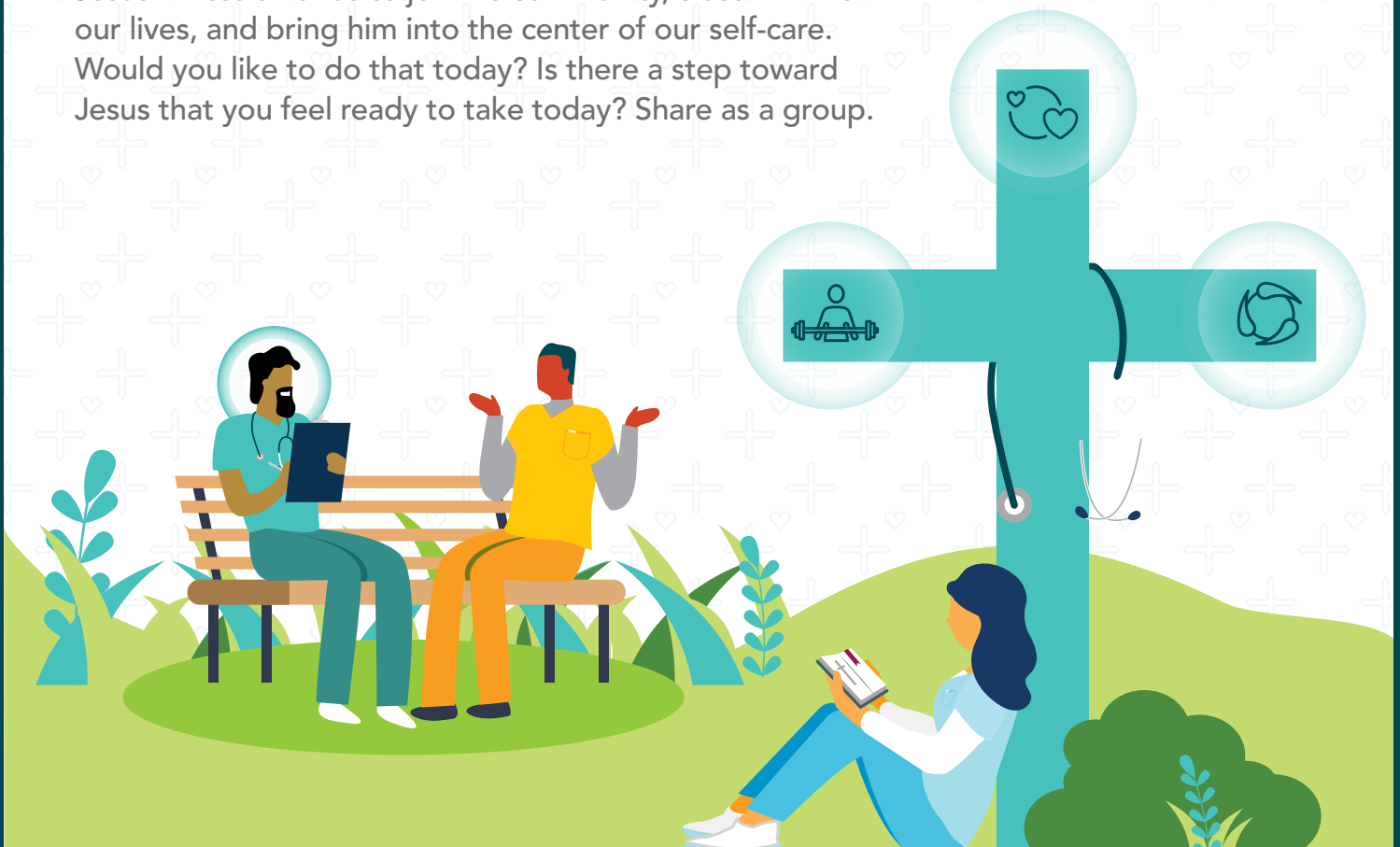


FOLLOWING

I'm following Jesus with my whole life. I hope my friends encounter God, too.

INVITATION FROM JESUS

Jesus invites all of us to join his community, trust him with our lives, and bring him into the center of our self-care. Would you like to do that today? Is there a step toward Jesus that you feel ready to take today? Share as a group.



NCF DISCIPLESHIP

Your Identity as a Nursing Student

Discipleship is letting Jesus rewrite your story and bringing others to Jesus for him to rewrite their story! In nursing school, Jesus is forming you into his likeness. The cool thing is that He will also use you to develop His likeness in others. We find this idea of discipleship in the Bible. Matthew 28:19-20 says: *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”* As followers of Jesus, we are to bring others to Jesus and discuss how Jesus wants to be a part of their story!



We want to grow **in Christ**, **like Christ**, and **with Christ** during our time as nursing students.

- In Christ, we grow in rhythms that change us from the inside out.
- Like Christ, we give every aspect of our lives to Jesus and let him direct our actions.
- With Christ, we join him on a mission to the people around us.

Another way of looking at *In, Like, and With Christ* is to see our identity as a Jesus follower. When we see our primary identity as a follower of Jesus, we make space for Jesus to change us *In, Like, and With* him.

To use this guide, we will follow the discipleship cycle. We will look at quotes from the Bible, take action on those quotes, and reflect on what Jesus did in our lives through the steps we took.

- Look
- Act
- Reflect

NCF DISCIPLESHIP: Your Identity as a Nursing Student

We are focusing on our identity as nursing students. Nursing school places significant stress on your identity. It can be easy to focus on your success and performance in grades, clinicals, etc. However, even for those who walk with Jesus, the idea of your identity being a nurse can become paramount, and anxiety can creep in. Nurses hold pride in the profession, which is sometimes good but can create an identity crisis. How have you experienced this to be true? To establish our identities in Jesus, we will dig into four truths about who we are:

- Bearing the Image of God
- Wonderfully Made
- You Are a New Creation
- Called as Caregivers

You can go through this guide as a disciple (someone meeting with you), use this guide to disciple someone else, or do both! You can use this guide to meet one-on-one or in groups. Remember, you do not have to have it all figured out to disciple someone, you only need a willing heart and a desire to



create space for someone else to meet Jesus through prayer, scripture, and community. In the Bible, in the book of Proverbs, it says that iron sharpens iron, and one person sharpens another (Proverbs 27:17). As long as two people are gathered, you can grow!

Leaders: To prep for a 30-minute meeting

- Find a time that works for everyone.
- Spend time in prayer before the meeting for the person you are discipling and the discussion itself.
- Read over the material yourself. Then, think of examples to share from your own life.
- Send a text to remind everyone of your meeting.

At your first meeting, spend time getting to know one another better. Remember to share openly and vulnerably yourself to encourage those you are meeting with to do the same. Ask questions like: **“How has your college and nursing school experience affected your faith journey?”**



MEETING 1

Bearing the Image of God

OPENING QUESTIONS

Spend 5 to 10 minutes on opening questions.

- Where do you find your identity? Family? Friends? Social Media?
- When you think of your identity, what first comes to mind?
- What are you hoping to better understand through this series on Your Identity as a Nursing Student?
- When you first meet someone, how do you introduce yourself? What is important to you to communicate?

LOOK AT THE BIBLE

GENESIS 1:26-31 (ESV)

“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and the birds of the heavens and the livestock and all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.”

CONTEXT: The story of creation is in the Bible to communicate that there is a God; he created and loves us and has a plan for our lives. We see that God makes humans in his image after creating all other things.

- How does knowing that God created you (and God said what He created is excellent!) impact you? How might that truth be different than how you see yourself?
- What aspects of God’s image do you see in yourself? What aspects do you uniquely represent as a student called to nursing?



MEETING 1: Bearing the Image of God

- Often, “having dominion” is translated as “stewardship.” How do you steward your life and gifts in a way that stewards God’s purposes in the world? How can you do that in nursing school and beyond?

As nursing students, it is easy to put our calling to be a nurse (secondary calling) ABOVE our calling to find our identity as people created by, loved by, and made in the image of God first and foremost (primary calling). Os Guinness, a Bible scholar, puts it this way:

Our secondary calling, considering who God is as sovereign, is that everyone, everywhere, and in everything, should think, speak, live, and act entirely for him. We can therefore properly say as a matter of secondary calling that we are called to homemaking or to law or to the practice of art history. But these and other things are always the secondary, never the primary calling. They are “callings” rather than the “calling.” They are our personal answer to God’s address, our response to God’s summons. Secondary calling matters, but only because the primary calling matters most. (The Call, 1998, p. 31)

When stressed, anxious, or fearful in nursing school, it can be because we have confused our secondary calling with our primary calling. Knowing who you are first and foremost as a follower of God created in his image can bring peace no matter the circumstances. You may or may not be active in nursing for the remainder of your life, but you will always be God’s child and image bearer.

When stressed, anxious, or fearful in nursing school, it can be because we have confused our secondary calling with our primary calling. Knowing who you are first and foremost as a follower of God created in his image can bring peace no matter the circumstances.

ACT: QUIET TIMES

This week, spend time with God for 15 minutes a day. Reflect on the ways you bear his image. You should list them in a journal. Ask God to be present and share how he sees you. Bring to him all the concerns you have.

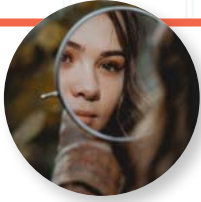
Hints for a quiet time with God:

- Put it in your planner
- Find a space you can relax
- Silence your phone
- Take three deep long breaths in and out as you begin.

REFLECT

- How did your times with God go?
- What surprised you?
- What would you try differently next time?

MEETING 1: Bearing the Image of God



MY NOTES



MEETING 2

Wonderfully Made

OPENING QUESTIONS

Pick 1-2

- Who would you choose to spend the day with if you could pick anyone?
- Who is someone that has been there for you in your life? How did that make you feel? How did that communicate how they viewed you?
- How does it make you feel when someone takes the time to get to know you?
- What do you like about yourself? Take 30 seconds and make a list. Share your list.
- What would you change about yourself? Why do you feel the way you do?

LOOK AT THE BIBLE

PSALM 139:1-16 (ESV)

"O Lord, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path, and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it. Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, your hand shall lead me. Your right hand shall hold me. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night," Even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you. You formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them."

CONTEXT: This quote from the Bible, written by David, a man in the Bible who was imperfect and yet loved by God, also the most famous king of Israel, is a great Psalm that teaches us about who God is and how he views and



MEETING 2: Wonderfully Made

interacts with us. It informs our identity by focusing on our relationship with God! Those who didn't know God often thought their gods were hostile or indifferent; David knew that the true God cared enough to have **searched** and **known** everyone.

- Put into your own words the specific things that God knows about you.
- How does David feel about God's complete knowledge of him? How do you feel about God's full understanding of you? Why?
- Why does it matter that God knows you so intimately? How does that shape your understanding of yourself and your identity?
- What does 139:11-12 say about God's ability to transform the most hopeless situations? What problem would you invite Jesus into?

It's not just that God knows everything – *He knows you*. It's not just that God is everywhere – *He is everywhere with you*. It's not just that God created everything – *He created you*. You are his creation, wonderfully made, bearing his image to the world. As a nursing student, you uniquely bear his image as a caregiver. You care for others emotionally, physically, and spiritually as He cares for us. More on this next week! We can forget, under the stress of nursing school, that we are God's wonderfully made creation bearing his image.

ACT: BREATH PRAYER

Practicing breath prayer can be a way to remember our identity and relationship with Jesus throughout the day. As you breathe in slowly, pray, "Lord Jesus," as you breathe out slowly, pray, "Thank you for knowing me." Pray this often as it comes to mind.

REFLECT

- How did your breath prayer go?
- What surprised you?
- What would you try differently next time?



MEETING 3

You are a New Creation

OPENING QUESTIONS

Pick 1-2

- What is something you regret from when you were young?
- If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be and why?
- Why is change so hard?
- How have you been misjudged before? What happened? How did it make you feel?
- If you could be anyone different for a day, who would it be and why?

LOOK AT THE BIBLE

2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21 (ESV)

“From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you, on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

CONTEXT: Often, the Bible talks about “the flesh,” which means worldly—Worldly, meaning something opposed to God. Therefore, we can easily misjudge someone with a worldly perspective. We are not those people anymore. Paul wants people to know that a relationship with Jesus changes us from the inside out into new people. We can then represent Jesus to others around us with our new identity. A new identity leads to a new purpose.

- What does Paul mean that he doesn’t regard anyone from a worldly point of view? How might someone with a worldly view regard Christ? How does that impact us?
- The promise that God will make you new is for anyone in Christ. How does that promise to make you feel? Why is this promise so important?



MEETING 3: You are a New Creation

- How are you different after knowing Jesus?
- What does this passage tell us is our new purpose?

What is your relationship with Jesus right now? Are you opposed to Jesus? Are you interested in Jesus? Seeking Jesus? Or following Jesus? When we have a relationship with Jesus, we are made new, but we are still in the process of living as a new creation. As we learn more about Jesus and ourselves, we see the transformation Jesus does in us. Understanding who we are in Jesus helps us know our life's purpose, calling, and mission as nurses.

ACT: INVESTING IN OTHERS

OPTION 1

Living as ambassadors — doing Jesus business in nursing school, can be as simple as getting to know the people in our cohorts, listening to their stories, and asking them how they are doing with school stress and anxiety. Pray for Jesus to show you who to invite to coffee or tea this week to hear their story. Think of questions ahead of time to get to know them, like, tell me about where you grew up and why you decided to become a nurse. The priority is to listen and avoid filling in the open spaces, it's hard not to do that, but often people need space to respond.

OPTION 2

Living as ambassadors can also be living generously and investing in others through giving our time, resources, and finances for God's Kingdom. As you look at the areas of your life (time, skills and talents, finances), where might God be inviting you to give? Maybe it is volunteering for a leadership role in your NCF group or giving to NCF to support the staff and resources needed to plant new NCF groups. Ask the Lord and choose one area to grow in generosity.

REFLECT

- How did your coffee go?
- What surprised you?
- What would you try differently next time?



MEETING 3: You are a New Creation



MY NOTES



MEETING 4

Called as Caregivers

OPENING QUESTIONS

Pick 1-2

- When did you know you wanted to be a nurse?
- What part of nursing is life-giving to you?
- What skills and strengths will make you a good nurse?
- Where do you think Jesus is calling you after nursing school?
- How do you see nursing reflect Jesus?

LOOK AT THE BIBLE

JOHN 5:2-9 (ESV)

"Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by covered colonnades. Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?" "Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me." Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked."

CONTEXT: Shrines to gods of healing were common in the ancient world. Living with a disability was much more complicated than it is today. Many with disabilities would seek recovery by visiting a shrine to worship and purify themselves in its pool.

- What physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs do you see in this man who can't walk? What do you think his life has been like?
- What did the man's response to Jesus' question reveal about his attitude toward his situation?
- What do you like about the unique ways Jesus cares for this man?



MEETING 4: Called as Caregivers

- What is a problematic area of your life where it's hard to have hope?
- How can you care for people who express unfulfilled hope or deep frustration in a difficult situation?

Jesus cared for this man physically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually. He was the man's ultimate caregiver. You, as a nurse, uniquely reflect Jesus' caregiver nature. It is a good and high calling, a calling lived out secondarily to your calling as an image bearer wonderfully made as a new creation.

ACT: LISTENING PRAYER

We know Jesus is with us and wants a real and meaningful relationship. He isn't far from us. Jesus speaks to us in several ways — through the Bible, others, and prayer. Listening prayer can be a great way to connect with Jesus in difficult times. You are inviting him to speak to you and your situation.

Ask Jesus a question on your heart, or share what it would take to trust him. Spend a moment in silence and notice any thoughts, images, sounds, or sensations you experience. Share as a group.

REFLECT

- Throughout these four weeks, how has your understanding of your identity as a nursing student changed?
- How have you grown in Christ's likeness?
- How have you grown like and with Christ in purpose and mission?
- Where is Jesus inviting you to surrender and grow?

NCF

Student Apprentices Program

Student leaders are the backbone of every NCF chapter. This year as you launch your fall ministry, keep the end goal of having ongoing student leaders in mind by recruiting and developing new leaders throughout the year.

This four-week guide will help develop new leaders with the vision and mission of NCF in mind. Written by nurse and NCF staff Bethany Miller, this easy-to-use guide will help you focus on leadership development in four key areas.

Asking apprentices to come just 20 minutes early to your NCF meeting to meet with your beforehand can be a great way to encourage participation.

PAGES 25 – 27

Gospel Centered
Community
and Leadership

PAGES 28 – 32

Community

PAGES 33 – 37

Scripture

PAGES 38 – 43

Shepherding
and Mission



Ensuring leadership continuity needs to be a high priority for every chapter. Find additional resources in our step-by-step guide to identify and develop new leaders.

WEEK 1

Gospel Centered Community and Leadership

GOAL

Cast vision to students for NCF leadership and having a gospel centered community.



READ SCRIPTURE

EPHESIANS 4:13-15 (ESV)

“...Until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people’s trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ...”

- In Ephesians 4:13-15, what does it mean to come to “maturity”?
- From this passage, what is God’s ultimate vision for us?

God has a vision for each one of our lives. And that vision is that we would grow to become more and more like his Son. We are already united with Christ, and the Spirit works in us to enable us to live in this reality of who we already are – children of God!

We want to share in God’s vision for our own lives and for others – to see others and ourselves the way he does. As NCF leaders, we have the privilege lead others in this vision! This means that our vision for our NCF group is to match God’s vision. We dream that everyone in our group would grow to become more like Christ and know they are beloved children of God, understanding more about their call as followers of Jesus and nurses.

- What would it look like if everyone in your nursing department was seeking to become more like Christ? How would things be different?



WEEK 1: Gospel Centered Community and Leadership

■ So what is an NCF small group and why do we do them?

NCF groups help develop people to become more like Christ, to become the men and women God created them to be. They are not just Bible studies; they are communities where people grow in intimacy with each other and with God as they walk together, care for one another, read Scripture together, worship together, and join in God's mission together.

Ultimately, the gospel—the good news of our redeemed relationship with God in Christ—is at the center of everything we do in an NCF group. We all need to hear the gospel over and over again.

God created us in his image as relational people; we are meant to live in communities where our faith is nurtured and we experience God's love and grace through each other. We are meant to grow in the gospel in community (not alone), and we can do so through Scripture, shepherding, and engaging in God's mission.

God gave us his Word so we could know him and understand his relationship with humanity and his purposes in our world. One way we can grow is through studying and responding to Scripture together.

We're also intended to care for and shepherd one another, to remind each other of who God is and who we are in the midst of our daily lives. We speak the gospel into one another's lives.

Finally, God is on a mission to bring healing and freedom to everyone around us, and he invites us to participate in this redemptive work. Out of God's love for us, we're called to share the gospel with those around us who don't know him.

Over the next three weeks, we will spend time talking about each of these aspects of a small group—community, scripture, shepherding, and mission.

■ What is an NCF group leader?

A group leader facilitates the health and growth of the group through fostering community, leading the group through scripture, shepherding, and engaging in mission with the group. They are never meant to have all the answers; rather, they join and lead the small group members in discovering answers together. *They're not responsible for what God does in and through their small group – that's the Holy Spirit's work.* But they can participate in what He's up to in small group members' lives and the campus around them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What has your experience been like with small groups in the past?
- How is this vision for small groups different than what you expected?
- What excites you about this? Makes you nervous?

WEEK 1: Gospel Centered Community and Leadership



MY NOTES



WEEK 2

Community

GOAL

Learn about why community is at the center of a group, and how to foster community.



READ SCRIPTURE

ACTS 2:42-47 (ESV)

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.”

- What do you notice about this community of people? What do they do together?
- How would you describe them?
- Why do you think they lived this way?
- What happened as a result of this community living life together?

In Acts, we see a glimpse of a gospel-centered community transformed by Jesus. People share life together in Christ, and that community is attractive to others around them. The community constantly retells God’s story, shares what they have with one another, eats and celebrates together, and are grounded in their relationship with Christ. Their life together in Christ demonstrates to the world around them what new life is like in the kingdom of God, and people see who Christ is through them!



WEEK 2: Community

■ Why community?

We're made in the image of God – and God himself is community. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit share a beautiful relationship of love – they are the perfect community, in constant, eternal fellowship. God made us to be relational, just as he is.

Belonging before believing – just as God accepts us before we ever believe, we too want to accept others even before they believe.

■ What does this look like in NCF?

An NCF group is far more than a Bible study – it's a community of people in relationship with each other. Just like in the early church, we want to build a community of people who share life together, re-tell the gospel to each other, are vulnerable, and are a witness to the gospel.

- Share a story of a small group community you are/were a part of (not NCF). What did it look like? How did it happen? What did it require of you? What about it was healthy/unhealthy?
-

■ Analyze your current NCF group community.

- Do people feel safe to share?
- Do they share vulnerably?
- Do people point each other toward Jesus?
- Do they help each other grow in relationship with each other, and in faith?
- Do people hang out outside of NCF group meetings? What does that usually look like?
- When new people come to NCF, how are they received and invited into the community?

Just like in the early church, we want to build a community of people who share life together, re-tell the gospel to each other, are vulnerable, and are a witness to the gospel.



WEEK 2: Community

■ How do we build community?

Community Building starts with your pursuit of people as a leader – your small group will follow your example. To see community embodied, three key elements are needed:

1. Ministry of presence

If you commit to spending time wherever nursing students are gathering (i.e., the nursing building, the library, etc.), if you are pursuing and gathering people, then you are communicating to people how you want them to pursue one another.

2. Vulnerability/investment

If you commit to being vulnerable and investing in relationships with the people you lead, they will learn from your example.

3. Submitting to others' interests.

As a leader, you should be willing to learn about the things that other people are interested in and spend time with them engaged in those interests. For example, if someone in your group loves watching documentaries, ask them to recommend one, and watch it together!

CROWD

Anyone who has never been to an NCF group meeting before. We can invite these people.

Learn to explain (in a sentence) what NCF is and the reason why we do NCF. Focus less on what you do (i.e. we meet once a week to study the Bible), and more on who your group is (i.e. we are a community of people who encourage one another, meet together, and talk about who Jesus is and why that matters to us as nursing students).

GUEST

Anyone who has visited NCF 1-2 times and is still figuring out if they want to be a part of the group. We want to help them connect with other small group members and keep inviting them back until they stick around!

- Follow up with them one-on-one outside of the small group meeting to get to know them more and help them feel connected.
- Encourage other members of your group to also reach out to them.

MEMBER

Someone who is an active part of the small group community and is invested/takes ownership of the community (starts using "we" or "us" language).

- Continue to invite them into group activities.
- Encourage them to take more ownership by inviting others, planning things for the group, and forming deeper relationships with those in the group.



WEEK 2: Community

■ Creating Spaces for Community Building

As nursing students, it can be hard to think about community building activities since our time is already so limited. The cool thing about NCF is that students within the group are already part of the nursing school community on campus! Although this is a huge help in initially building community, we want to push our small group members to connect and engage with each other on a deeper level.

We can create spaces in which people can connect by doing community building activities within AND outside small group.

Within Group

- Play a game to start off your meeting! Try something simple like “two truths and a lie” (everyone tells two truths and one “lie” about themselves; others to guess the lie), or ask everyone to share their favorite picture on their phone from the last month.
- There are lots of icebreaker games you can find online to try out! Sometimes it can be helpful during small group to make a “no talking about school” rule. This helps nursing students take a break from their default conversations of tests, professors, classmates, and clinicals. It helps them engage with each other on a deeper level.

Outside Group

- Set up a study room for an afternoon and invite people to drop in and study together.
- Go get lunch or dinner together as a small group.
- Host a game night at someone’s house.
- Get creative! If there’s something your group likes to do, plan a time to do it together. (i.e. carving pumpkins in the fall, going to a local park, going to see a new movie together).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What has your experience with community been like?
- Remember when you were first invited to NCF – what was that like for you? Why did you decide to come?
- When you first came to NCF, what made you feel welcomed or connected with others? Why did you keep coming back?
- How can you build community within the nursing school and within NCF?



WEEK 3: Scripture



GOAL

Cast vision for importance of studying scripture together as well as give them tools to lead a scripture study.

READ SCRIPTURE

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 (ESV)

“All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.”

EPHESIANS 2:1-10 (ESV)

“You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.”

- In 2 Timothy 3:16-17, what is the purpose of Scripture?
- In Ephesians 2:1-10, we see the gospel clearly articulated. How might you use this passage for “teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness?”

In 2 Timothy, we see that scripture is a way God shows us who he is, helps bring us to maturity and become more like Christ, and helps equip us for these good works. In Ephesians, Paul shares all these things for the purposes mentioned in 2 Timothy. Though this is an obvious example of the gospel being communicated, we actually see the Gospel woven throughout Old and New Testament Scriptures.



WEEK 3: Scripture

■ So how do we lead people in studying scripture?

We use two things— OIA, and good questions!

INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY: OIA (OBSERVE, INTERPRET AND APPLY)

1. OBSERVE

What does the passage say?

1. Context:
 - What's happening before/ after this passage? Any similarities or contrasts?
 - Cultural influences
 - Author, audience, time period, purpose for writing?
2. Content:
 - What is actually happening in the passage
3. Actions:
 - Who is doing what?
 - What are the characters doing?
4. When are events taking place?
5. References to the Old Testament? (See your Bible's note section or cross references.)
6. Connections (Grammar)?
 - Compare and contrast
 - Cause and effect
 - Symbolism, metaphors
 - Key words and phrases
 - Verb tenses
 - Irony

2. INTERPRET

What does the passage mean?

1. Develop questions based on the text
2. Be curious and ask "Why?"
3. Imagine the perspective of the people in the scene
4. Define terms using dictionary and look up allusions from the Old Testament
5. Answer your questions using the text and surrounding context
6. ASK THESE TWO QUESTIONS TO YOURSELF:
 - What's the main point the author is communicating to the original audience?
 - Where is the gospel seen in this passage?

3. APPLY

What does the passage mean for me/we/ university?

1. How will you respond to what the passage is saying? – both internally (beliefs) and externally (actions)
2. How does it change the way you view God, yourself, and others?
3. What are the implications of the passage for your small group? For the campus?
4. Pray that God will help you believe and act.



WEEK 3: Scripture

“CHUNKING” METHOD

This is an observation technique that can be used to lead discussion through a passage of Scripture.

LEADING DISCUSSION

1. Give the small group time to make observations on their own (writing on/markings up the passage you printed out for them) Then give them a minute to divide the passage up into chunks and label each chunk
2. Go through each chunk of the passage (in order), and discuss observations from each (“what did you notice or see in this chunk?”)
3. Looking at the whole passage now, ask interpretation questions (following the order of the passage) to help the group interpret the passage together. Summarize by asking where they see the gospel in the passage
4. Ask application questions in response to the passage.

WRITING GOOD QUESTIONS

Goal: help group members enter into the text, understand the truth and how it applies to us today.

Pointers:

1. Know where you’re heading – what’s your “aha” moment?
2. Know what pieces you need to work out to get to your “aha” moment (seeing the scene, making contrasts, getting to the feelings/motives of characters).
3. Questions should build towards main idea the author is trying to communicate, specifically, what is he communicating about Jesus?
4. Where is the bridge? – the mutual human condition we share with those to or about whom the text was originally written; how do we both need Jesus?
5. Answer your questions yourself first; think – does this question actually point us towards the main idea of the passage?

Characteristics of Good Questions:

1. Open-ended – promote discussion, have multiple answers, answer isn’t totally obvious
2. Prompts the studiers to look back into the text
3. Highlights relationships
4. Uses the language of the group and the text
5. Helps studiers identify with the emotion in the text or link their own experiences to the text



WEEK 3: Scripture

Examples of Good and Bad Questions (using Luke 9:10-17 – feeding of the 5,000)

1. Questions that help the group envision the scene:
 - **HELPFUL:** What do you think the crowd would have been like?
 - **LESS HELPFUL:** Was the crowd intrusive?
2. Questions that capture the tension or point of intrigue in the text:
 - **HELPFUL:** How do you think the disciples felt about the crowd?
 - **LESS HELPFUL:** Are the disciples happy about having to feed the crowd?
3. Questions that link the studiers' lives to the text:
 - **HELPFUL:** What are the "I have only____," "unless I ____," you see in your life?
 - **LESS HELPFUL:** When is the last time you had to serve 5,000 people dinner?
4. Questions that bring portions of the discussion together:
 - **HELPFUL:** The disciples and Jesus respond differently to the crowd. Let's compare them.
 - **LESS HELPFUL:** How does the sea change over the course of this passage?

The Inductive Bible study method (OIA) helps us more accurately arrive at what the original author was communicating and what that message means for us.

The "Chunking" method helps us lead and facilitate others through the text. By breaking up the passage into smaller sections, we are more likely not to miss all the text is trying to communicate.

The best small group leaders are the ones who ask the best questions, not the ones who have the best answers. Growing in our ability to create and ask good questions allows the small group to make good observations, interpretations and applications. This leads to scripture affecting our lives holistically.

When we study scripture in community, other people often help us see things we might have missed on our own. This can be especially true when we are in a multiethnic community; people often notice things through their cultural lenses. Because studying scripture is essentially asking, "Who is God?" and "Who are we?," we can learn so much more by doing this together.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What did you learn about leading others in Bible study?
- How are you feeling about using OIA, Chunking, and writing question?
- You can always use our prepared NCF Bible studies found here: <https://ncf.jcn.org/resources/bible-studies>



WEEK 3: Scripture



MY NOTES

WEEK 4

Shepherding and Mission

GOAL

Learn about what it means to shepherd the members of an NCF group, as well as how to pursue mission on campus with members of a small group.



READ SCRIPTURE

JOHN 10:14-16 (ESV)

“I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep. I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd.”

1 PETER 5:1-3 (ESV)

“Now as an elder myself and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory to be revealed, I exhort the elders among you to tend the flock of God that is in your charge, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion but willingly, as God would have you do it—not for sordid gain but eagerly. Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- In John 10:14-16, what makes Jesus a good shepherd? Is this how you often see Jesus?
- In 1 Peter 5:1-3, how does Peter speak of shepherding? How does he describe the elders' (leaders) roles?
- How are these two verses related?

As we allow Jesus to be our Good Shepherd, to tend and care for us, we start to share his heart for tending and caring for the people around us. As we are known and loved by him, our desire to know and love others grows.



WEEK 4: Shepherding and Mission

SHEPHERDING AND TWO WAYS TO SHEPHERD AN NCF GROUP — INVESTING AND DISCIPLINING:

Shepherding is caring for others and ultimately, pointing them to Jesus. It involves helping others understand their identity in Christ and grow as his followers. This is done in two ways – by investing in and disciplining small group members.

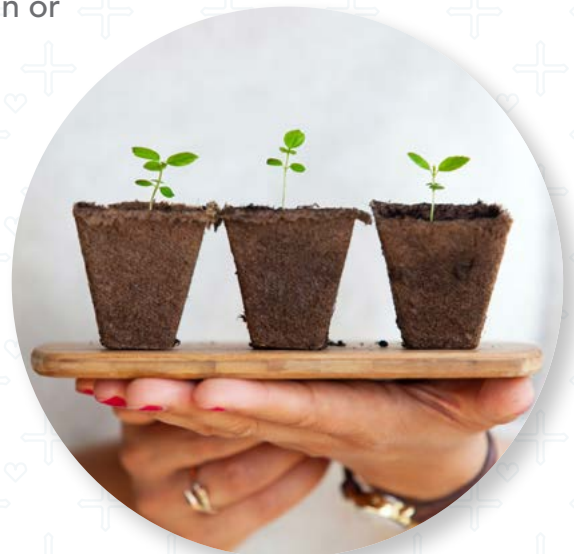
Note: Shepherding your small group is not limited to Christians, but all who come to small group, Christian or not. You help everyone grow in how they view God and themselves, and point them to Jesus.

■ Way Number One: Investing.

As Jesus cares for the people in our groups, we want to join him in caring for them too. We can do this by investing in our members—getting to know them more deeply, encouraging them, pointing them to Jesus, and showing them his love.

We invest in group members by connecting with them outside of the weekly group meeting. Shepherding moments can happen in both one-on-one and group settings.

- This can be done through following up with members on a semi-regular basis and it is done in small group when people bring up situations they are facing or ways that they are struggling or triumphing.
- This is also done through living life together and having others see how you live and make decisions in your life, no matter how trivial.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- When has someone invested in you by following up one-on-one with you? What was that like for you? How did it feel to be pursued?
- When have you brought up a struggle or a triumph in a group setting? What was that like for you?

WEEK 4: Shepherding and Mission



■ Way Number Two: Discipling.

After a group leader starts to get to know the group members by following up with them, another way they can shepherd people is through discipling 1-2 small group members.

Discipling Defined: Coming alongside of someone as they walk with Jesus, helping them learn more about who Jesus is and what it means to follow him.

Why disciple: Jesus changed the world through discipleship—by investing in 12 people, showing them who he was, and developing them into the people he called them to be.

Likewise, he calls us to go and make disciples. We are to invest in others, walk with them, and point them to Jesus. We get to be a part of how Jesus is growing them in their faith!

“WHO SHOULD I DISCIPLE?!”

- **Teachable:** they express a desire to learn more about God. They demonstrate curiosity and seek to grow in their faith.
- **Available:** they have the time (or are committed to making time) to meet regularly.
- **Missional:** they actively participate in God’s mission (or have a desire to), share their faith with others, and seek his justice in the world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- As we think about discipling others, it’s important for us to be disciplined by someone else, so that we too can grow. As being an apprentice is discipleship, what has that been like for you?
- How do you feel about discipling someone else? What would be difficult? Exciting?



WEEK 4: Shepherding and Mission

MISSION

ACTS 1:8 (ESV)

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

MATTHEW 28:18-20 (ESV)

“Jesus came and told his disciples, ‘I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’”

JEREMIAH 29:4-7 (ESV)

“This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ‘Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.’”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- In Acts 1:8, what is Jesus’ promise to the disciples? What does he say will be true of them? Why?
- In Matthew 28, what else do we learn about Jesus’ commission to the disciples?
- How are Jesus’ promises and commands related? Why does this matter?
- In Jeremiah 29, God is telling his people to live life in and amongst their enemies, the Babylonians. How might it look for us to “build houses, settle down, and seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you” as it relates to being a nursing student?



WEEK 4: Shepherding and Mission

The good news of Jesus was never meant to be kept to ourselves. It is not for us alone, but for the whole world! Jesus' mission didn't stop when he ascended into heaven; rather, it continues on because Jesus is alive! And his mission is one of healing and restoration—he is working in people's lives, through his Holy Spirit, to call them to himself and bring wholeness in place of brokenness.

The way Jesus carries out his mission in the world today is through us, his church. He invites us to participate in the ways he's working in people's lives all around us. The more we come to know him, the more desire he gives us to share who he is with others so they too can be transformed!

As we witness to the love of Christ, we don't do this alone or on our own strength, but by the Holy Spirit alive within us. It is by his presence and power that we tell others about Christ and that they come to see him for who he is!

If "shepherding" is done within our communities, then "mission" is what we do outside of our communities or groups. "Mission" is something we embody, not a program we do. We want our groups to become witnessing communities that are both invitational and incarnational. We want our whole NCF group to be invested in each other's friends and the places in the nursing department where they are connected. This starts with a leader who is willing to embody these principles themselves.

- Who are the people in your life that have never encountered Christ's love before or even a gospel-centered community?
- Where are they at when it comes to how they think about Jesus and their own lives? – These are important questions we want to reflect on, be aware of, and also help our NCF group think about.



WEEK 4: Shepherding and Mission



MY NOTES

NCF Student Ministry Timeline Detail

We appreciate all you do to make your NCF chapter successful and hope this helps your leadership team plan the activities that take place each year that will help your chapter thrive. Please adapt as needed if your group follows a different semester schedule. Key links are included in the timeline below; if you have ANY questions, do not hesitate to contact an NCF Student Ministry staff.

	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
GROW THE GROUP	Order NSO Materials	New Student Outreach	Follow-up to Outreach			New Student Outreach	Follow-up to Outreach					
DEVELOP LEADERS		Invite to Leadership				Invite to Leadership	Report New Leaders to NCF					
DISCIPLE MEMBERS	Pray and Plan			Invitation to Faith	Senior send-offs	Annual NCF Retreat			Invitation to Faith	Senior send-offs		Pray and Plan
CONNECT WITH NCF		Complete Affiliation	Submit Fall Survey						Submit Spring Survey			

NCF Student Ministry Timeline Detail

GROW THE GROUP

Each campus is unique, but thriving groups have students from multiple cohorts and get info out through various connection point

1

Order New Student Outreach (NSO) materials from NCF: Watch summer *Campus Vitals* eNewsletters for information on ordering your free resources.

3



Follow-up to NSO: Watch this video about Sam's story to see why it matters!

2



New Student Outreach (NSO) activities:
What is NSO?

Connect with students within 48 hours of getting their information.

Don't assume that no response is a "no;" some people need more time



Host an interest table at a student organization event or in the nursing department.



Make a compelling invitation to your next event. Share why students should come and how NCF has impacted you.



Get students contact information for follow-up; find a follow-up card template here

Making an announcement in classes or at an orientation for new nursing students.

Welcome event at the beginning of the year with food.



NCF Student Ministry Timeline Detail

DEVELOP LEADERS

Having regular conversations about apprenticeship and leadership consistently in front of students will help ensure a strong leadership pipeline.

1



Identify and invite potential apprentices: Pay attention to students with a heart for NCF; what gifts and talents would they bring to leadership? Invite them to the apprenticeship program.

4

Report new leaders and apprentices to NCF: We want to be sure they are getting the resources and coaching they need and to pray for your entire leadership team.

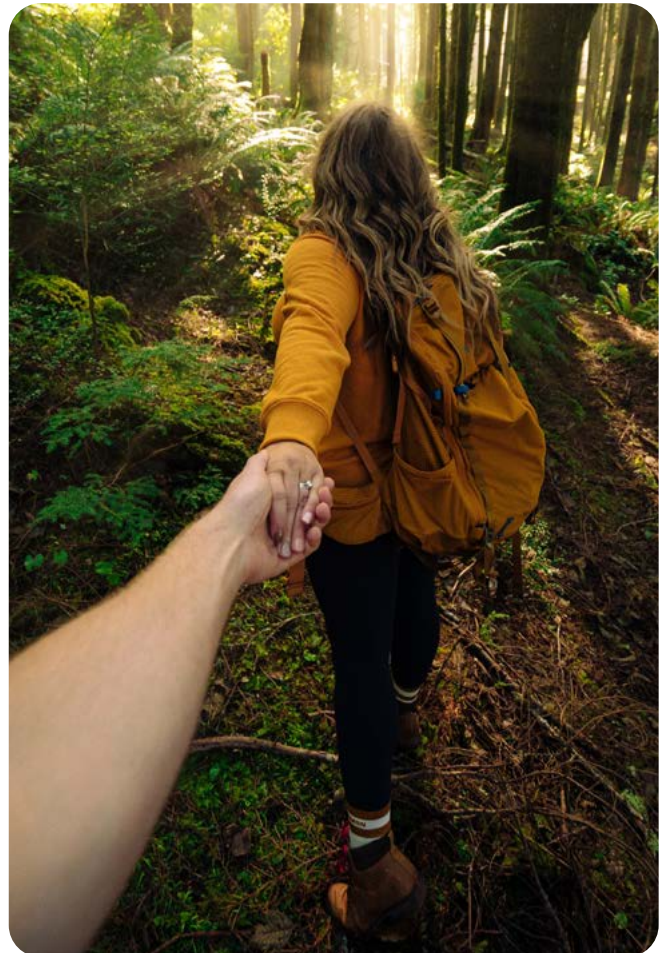
2



Lead an Apprenticeship Program: Develop future leaders in the NCF vision and mission.

3


Identify and Invite to Leadership: Identify and invite students to consider taking the next step in their development by calling out the gifts you see in them and laying out expectations.



NCF Student Ministry Timeline Detail

DISCIPLE MEMBERS: Growing our relationship with Jesus is vital and key to the health of your NCF group. Use the following timeline and tools to equip nursing students for life-long discipleship.

1  **Discipleship:** Use our four-week discipleship guide with your group. You can do this anytime throughout the year.

2  **Invitations to faith:** Effective faith sharing is part of our growth as followers of Jesus and a way we can care for others spiritually.


3 **Attend NCF Annual Virtual Retreat:** Plan to attend as a group on the first Saturday in February.

4 **Senior send-off conversations:** Care for alums by keeping them connected and supported.

5 **Pray and plan:** Meet with new student leaders over the summer to pray and plan.

CONNECT WITH NCF:

Communication with NCF allows us to best stay in contact and up-to-date with your NCF group. Please make time for prompt reporting (it just takes a few minutes!).

1  **Complete affiliation form annually:** This is required for all student and faculty leaders, affirming they understand the purpose and doctrine of NCF.

2 **Submit fall & spring surveys:** Reflect on your group and how God has been at work.

Faculty and Student Leader Partner Pages

VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

Our Vision: Seeing students and nurses know and follow Jesus in nursing.

Our Mission: NCF uniquely transforms the nursing profession through:

- Biblically grounded communities
- Effective faith-sharing
- Comprehensive resources that support integrated whole-person care for and by the nurse.

Group Components:

- Bible study / spiritual growth (discipleship)
- Support, prayer, community
- Developing as faith-sharers (Evangelism)
- Leadership development

We are so excited to see how God will work in the hearts of nursing students and faculty on your campus through NCF. We appreciate your service and leadership in helping make this possible! While we want NCF chapters to reflect the needs and character of the individual campus, there are a few things we require of all our groups so they can remain in good standing:

- **Annually submit the agreement form**

Complete the online form with your student leadership team. The form will request student leaders' affirmation of the purpose statement and doctrinal basis of NCF/ InterVarsity.



- **Complete the chapter online check-in survey twice a year (late fall and spring).**

Filling out the survey will enable NCF to gather data to support our groups better.

- **Annually submit names and emails of student and faculty leaders.**

This information is how we will stay in contact and be sure you receive the most current resources.

- **Develop Leaders.**

Developing new leaders to keep your chapter strong and help others grow spiritually is essential. Sharing tasks or responsibilities that recognize God-given gifts and talents will benefit your chapter. Coaching and resources are available to help you.



InterVarsity
NURSES CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

OUR VISION SEEING **STUDENTS & NURSES** KNOW & FOLLOW **JESUS IN NURSING**

Faculty and Student Leader Partner Pages

- **New leaders attend a training session.** We will offer training opportunities specific to faculty or student leaders and ask that all new leaders attend at least once (schedules allowing).
- **Connect graduating seniors.** We want alums to find a supportive Christian community as they launch their careers. NCF has many resources to support alums and help their faith grow in nursing, so we ask groups to have graduating seniors fill out an alum form.

Other things we strongly encourage that will help your chapter thrive.

- **Preferably registered as a student organization on campus.** Becoming a registered student organization is typically a relatively straightforward process and provides extensive benefits such as the ability to reserve rooms and request funding from the Student Senate. In addition, NCF can advise you on how to apply for student organization status and provide you with NCF's constitution template to aid you in the process.
- **Keep communication lines open.** Open and read the communication from the national NCF team, responding where appropriate, and reaching out to us when you have any concerns.

- **Follow us on social media.** NCF Student Ministry can be found on Instagram and TikTok.

- If someone in your chapter stays current, you are welcome to share ideas and challenges in our private Facebook group for leaders. Email Jen for the link to join.



- **Engage with NCF professional ministries** by becoming an official NCF member and encouraging students to stay connected to NCF through professional membership as they graduate.



Faculty and Student Leader Partner Pages

FAQS

What does an average NCF group look like on campus?

An average NCF group meets anywhere from weekly to monthly. Core meetings contain community, scripture, and prayer. Additional ideas include study nights, socials, speakers, and service projects.

Is NCF a student organization or a professional membership?

NCF is both a student organization and a professional membership association (<https://nurses.events.intervarsity.org/ncf-student-membership>) for students and professionals. You can be a part of the student organization or professional membership association, or both!



What resources are available to me?



One-time and ongoing Virtual Coaching, email to connect with a coach.



Bible Studies



Leadership Development Material



Campus Vitals
Monthly Newsletter



Annual Online Retreat and Other Events



Outreach Material for Tabling at the Beginning of the Year



NCF Swag - Graduation cords, t-shirts, backpack pins, & more

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU ARE DOING!

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Ideas For Funding Your Chapter

Wouldn't it be nice to have some funds available to your chapter for things like food, activities, outreach supplies, and graduation cords? Here are some ways we have seen groups have success to allow the group to do more without additional financial burden on leaders.

- **Your school:** some registered student organizations have access to funding. If you need help becoming registered on your campus as a student organization, contact us at NCF@intervarsity.org.
- **Churches in your area:** Whether they give funds directly, treats, space, or prayer support, it would be good to connect with a church or two in the area. Your group can help them see the importance of ministry on campus. There could be an option to speak to a group or do a "Blessing of the Hands" for nurses in the congregation and put out a basket for donations.
- **Businesses in your area:** There may be a restaurant/coffee shop that will donate food for meetings or some stores will provide a gift card for purchasing supplies for an activity or fundraiser. Never be afraid to ask! Click on the link for a template for a letter.
- **Parents:** Letting parents know that their student is involved in an organization on campus... Parent letter template available in the link.
- **Alumni:** This begins with helping the group understand that it is important to stay connected to NCF as they graduate and ask for non-school emails. Let them know what is going on and what they can contribute toward (often it helps to give a specific amount request). Alumni form/letter template available in the link.
- **Selling something** that anyone on campus or in the nursing school would enjoy. Nursing school shirts, treats (check into regulations), raffle tickets (hopefully for donated items).
- **"Days Wage:"** Members pledge to donate a day's wage from summer work.



Business
Sample Letter



Parent
Sample Letter



Alumni
Sample Letter