A DEAF MISSIONS FILM

JESUS

"And his name will be the hope of all the world."
Matthew 12:21 (NLT)

GUIDE FOR SMALL GROUP FACILITATORS

COLLABORATIVELY DEVELOPED BY:

CONVERGE INTERNATIONAL DEAF CATALYST TEAM
DEAF KIDS CONNECT
DEAF MILLENNIAL PROJECT
DEAF MISSIONS
DEAF TEEN QUEST
HOPE SIGNS

Jesus said to his disciples, "The harvest is so great, but the workers are so few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send out more workers for his fields."
– Matthew 9:37-38 (NLT)

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Jesus didn't make disciples this way.

Why do we?

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DEAF MISSIONS

WELCOME/INTRODUCTION/ NOT FINE PRINT

Welcome aboard! Thank you so much for responding to God's call to serve as a facilitator for a small group's journey together through JESUS, A DEAF MISSIONS FILM. What you have committed to do will have an impact for eternity.

Before you go any further, please carefully read and familiarize yourself with the mission statement, culture statements, and declarations below.

Mission Statement

Understanding that every human is made in God's image, we celebrate the Deaf being – the uniqueness, the way of thinking and feeling and processing, the journey and the pain. Knowing the journey is not finished, we will introduce Jesus and offer an opportunity to get to know Him as Savior, Lord, and Friend.

Culture Statements

- We will be active listeners – to the Holy Spirit and each other.
- We will be storytellers.
- We will cry with each other and celebrate with each other.
- We will create community through simple things like eating together.
- We will help wounds become scars.
- We will embrace that every scar has a story.
- We will use those stories to bring glory to God.
- We will be ripple makers – introducing more people to Jesus.

Declarations

- We will trust God to bring the people in whom we are to invest.
- We will care more about life change than numbers.
- We will remember relationships matter more than our plans.
- We will stick to it, knowing that healing hurts and bringing down walls takes time and patience.
- We will always point people back to Jesus.

Amen? Amen!

"All honor to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for it is by his boundless mercy that God has given us the privilege of being born again. Now we live with hope because Jesus Christ rose again from the dead."

– 1 Peter 1:3 (ESV)

This guide has four essential parts that may help you become an effective, godly facilitator and see the Gospel of Jesus transform and mature your life and the lives of others. These parts are (and when you sign each of these, you'll notice each has the "5" handshape in ASL!):

Pray

Prepare

Process

reProduce

Don't rush through this. Take your time. Be deliberate and thorough. Depend on the Holy Spirit as you go through this journey of praying, preparing, processing, and reproducing.

May Deaf people see and know Jesus! And may God receive the glory!

Write your thoughts here.

PRAY

"Keep on praying."

– 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (TLB)

A movement of God always starts with seeking the heart of God. Before you do any planning and facilitating, pray! Pray, pray, pray!

The Bible simply and boldly says that prayer works. James 5:16b says, "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

While there are many different things to pray, for we have five specific recommendations. Take time to:

1. Praise God for who He is and what He has done for you!
2. Praise God for giving you the opportunity to facilitate a small group!
3. Pray through the mission statement, culture statements, and declarations in the previous section of this manual.
4. Pray for God to reveal to you specific people to invest in by inviting them to participate in your small group.
5. Ask God to help you understand and learn how you can be an effective facilitator.

What else is the Lord leading you to pray?

Pray, pray, pray!

PREPARE

Now, it's time to begin preparing to facilitate a small group.
Here are prompts to assist you as you prayerfully and deliberately plan.

1 Will it be "all or anyone welcome" or a defined group (singles, children, teenagers, adults, empty-nesters, etc.)? Write your answer here.

2 Who will you invite? Write the names of those you will invite here.
We recommend your group have 3 to 5 people for deeper bonding.

3 How often will your group meet? Weekly, every couple of weeks, monthly? Write your answer below.

"When the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power and will tell people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

– Acts 1:8 (NLT)

4 When and how long will your group meet? We recommend each meeting be at least one to two hours to allow time for conversations and relationship building. Write your answer below.

5 Where will your group meet? In-person or virtual? If in person, consider your home, local coffee shop, or someplace where people will be comfortable and inspired. If virtual, consider what technology you will use...Zoom, Google Meet, or other. How will you use the technology...will you need to share your screen, designate a co-host, or other? Write your answer here.

6 How will you handle the technology of the video content? (i.e., casting on your TV, laptop, etc.)

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave nor forsake you."

– Deuteronomy 31:6 (NIV)

7 How will you invite people? Consider face-to-face invites, sending e-mails or text messages, calling via FaceTime or VideoPhone (VP), or mailing a letter or card.

8 Which curriculum developed for the film JESUS will you use to facilitate your small group?

- **For children developed by Deaf Kids Connect**
  This curriculum will include two lesson tracks, one that provides the simplest lesson for the youngest children, and one that provides a deeper lesson for older children. Each lesson will include family activities that reinforce the point and are fun for the family to do together at any time. We expect parents to grab these tools and take over the teaching role as they can. The curriculum will include instruction for parents who may not be confident in their signing, and video teaching led by a person fluent in ASL.

- **For teenagers, developed by Deaf Teen Quest**
  This story kit curriculum will equip and empower youth leaders to engage Deaf and hard-of-hearing (DHH) teens relationally while strategically introducing them to God's story. These lessons will provide creative ways to connect God's story to DHH teens. As you use the story kits, prayerfully seek guidance from the Holy Spirit and consider the individual DHH teens in your context, including their diverse language and developmental requirements. Trust that the Holy Spirit will guide you to creatively come alongside their unique spiritual needs.

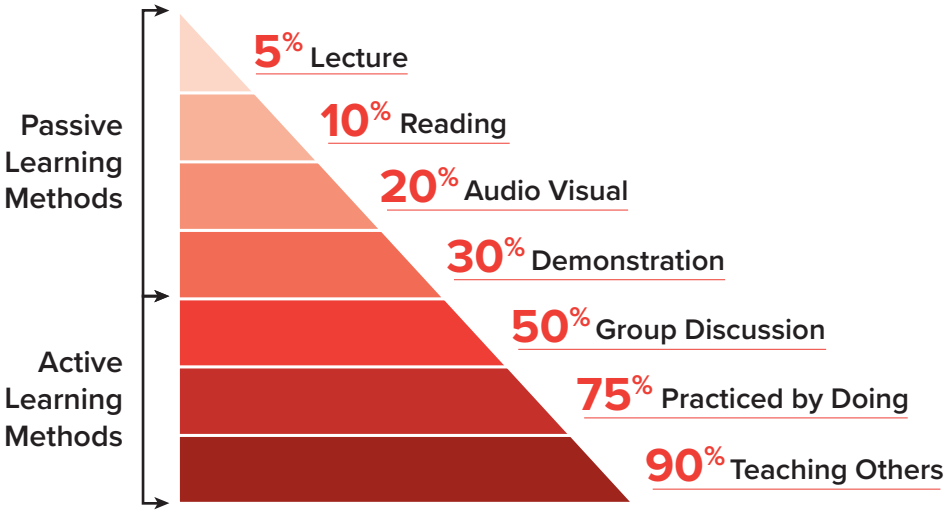
"Then Jesus told him, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who haven't seen me and believe anyway."

– John 20:29 (NLT)

- **For adults developed by Deaf Millennial Project and Converge**
  This training guide is crafted to be easily reproducible. Each session has three parts: Looking Back (Community), Looking Up (Faith), and Looking Forward (Purpose). It is key for Christians to understand that a disciple listens, obeys and shares. Learning about God is not enough; it must come with obedience, and part of obedience includes sharing what we are learning. This guide pushes participants towards the "2-2-2 principle" found in 2 Timothy 2:2, where Paul writes: "and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrusted to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also." This tool will help people connect to Jesus—His humanity, behavior, and mission – and encourage them to go and make disciples.

As you prepare to facilitate your small group, keep in mind there may be various learning styles. For many people, they learn best through interaction, discussion, and by doing.

THE LEARNING PYRAMID



"Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

– John 14:6 (NLT)

Host a Movie Night to Launch Your Small Groups

Who:

Don't overthink it!

You can invite anyone to a movie night: Christian/non-Christian, someone who loves movies, someone who dreams of having full ASL access to a film, a friend, a colleague, Deaf and hearing—there are no limits on who you can invite.

What:

To watch JESUS, A DEAF MISSIONS FILM

When:

You'll have to decide. Are you going to the theater together, gathering to watch it on a streaming service, or maybe you have waited until it is available to show at your church . . . The best way to view it will change with time, and the "right" timing, is whatever is best for your ministry.

Where:

- A theater near you offering a showing
- Your home
- A friend's home
- Your church
- A community center
- A small local theater that you rent
  (Rental can be less than you expect. You can ask people to chip in for seats.)

(See "other ideas" on page 10.)

Why:

There are layers of why...

1. To enjoy a quality film together
2. To give them exposure to the Gospel
3. To invite them to learn more about Jesus
4. The ultimate goal—that they are so intrigued that they want to join a small group to learn more

#1 & #2 are good enough reasons to gather.
The journey to discipleship will be long for some people. Don't get discouraged if you don't birth a large small group from one movie night, but pray that some—even one, might respond to join you in a small group study.

How:

- Pick the time and place.
- If it is after the theater release and streaming window, the Deaf Missions website will coach you what to do if special permission is required.
- Invite your friends.
- Point out the QR code at the end of the movie – your friends can choose a next step if they want.
- Have a plan for the first small group meeting for anyone interested.
- Make sure your friends know it is an ongoing invitation.
- Report to Deaf Missions the number of people who attended your movie night. *(It doesn't matter if it is 2 or 200, we want to know!)*

Other ideas:

If you see it in the theater—host an after-party. It could be a themed party — perhaps a red carpet event. Invite everyone to dress up and provide fun finger foods.

When it is available for private viewing, rent an inflatable screen and host it in a park or your backyard. Have a swim-in — if you have a home or neighborhood pool – set up a screen and watch from the water.

Do a drive-in movie — hang a sheet and project the film on the wall or rent an inflatable screen. Invest in a sound system so any hearing people in attendance can hear the background noise and music while in their car. Don't forget the popcorn and plan a chance for interaction. Be sure to capture the contact information of all who attend.

Wherever you are hosting – a theater, church, community center, or home – have a contest — Offer a prize to the person who brings the most people.

What other ideas do you have?

"And I, the Son of Man, have come to seek and save those like him who are lost."

– Luke 19:10 (NLT)

Preparing/praying for individuals

Name: _____

- What questions could I ask to encourage this disciple in their walk with God?
- What encouragement could I offer to help this member be more engaged?
- What do they need from me relationally that is not specifically related to ths small group?

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PROCESS

Pray. Invite. Gather. Depend on the curriculum you have chosen to guide you while meeting with your small group regularly.

As a facilitator going through this process, remember that you are joining the journey of those in your small group. That journey can be messy – it can be paved with hurt and pain, and it can be beautiful and joy-filled. Your goal is to meet each person where they are in their journey – their life experience and their experience with Jesus and His church. As you utilize the JESUS movie curriculum you have chosen for your group, encourage them to make applications to their personal lives and journeys.

Being a facilitator and working with people takes some savvy. The skill of meeting people where they are and bringing out the best in them is often called "people skills" or "soft skills."

How do we naturally come alongside others authentically and honestly? What did Jesus model in His day-to-day life that shows us how to engage individuals who are discussing and seeking truth in the world around them?

WATCH LUKE 24:13–35

WWW.DEAFMISSIONS.COM/ASLV

USE THE QR TO GO DIRECTLY TO LUKE 24. VERSE 13 STARTS AT 2:14

Consider the story of Jesus on the road to Emmaus in Luke 24:13 – 35. **What people skills or soft skills did Jesus demonstrate in this story?**

- He came alongside naturally...He joined them
- He was relational
- He kept things simple, uncluttered
- He asked good questions
- He listened
- They were discouraged
- He continued asking questions
- They were confused
- They were shocked

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

– 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

- Jesus said some hard things (intentional and directional conversation)
- He broke bread with them (shared a meal)
- He was comfortable in silence (keep in mind that in silence, the Spirit is able to move, work, and stir!)
- Their hearts burned within them

If you are trying to learn your way around the kitchen, you may want to learn from a culinary expert. However, it might be more meaningful to find a friend who will take you to their kitchen, show you what they know, and figure out together what neither of you knows. Often, the best way to learn something is to grapple with it yourself — to try and fail and try again.

We don't expect small group facilitators to be experts. You don't have to have all the answers, but be hungry to learn alongside others and share the journey with others. This is the heart of the process of facilitating and disciple-making.

As you go through the process and journey, here are some questions you might ponder before each meeting with your small group:

1. What questions could I ask to help each person move toward God in our small group?
2. What can I ask to let them know I care about their daily life?
3. What encouragement could I offer in their life journey?

Here are some questions you may consider after each gathering:

1. **Debrief –** How did my plan go? What did I notice during discussions?
2. **Process –** How did I feel about myself and the people in the group?
3. **Pray –** Holy Spirit, what are you doing? How can I join You?
4. **Plan –** What does my group need next to move toward God? What can I do to deepen trust?
5. **Praise –** What was good about God in the recent gathering?

You may record some notes and personal observations while facilitating small groups on page 16 or a separate page.

REPRODUCE

Countless prayers, millions of dollars, and thousands of hours have gone into the creation of the JESUS, A DEAF MISSIONS FILM, and a key component is our ability to take this Gospel message to where Deaf people are. Jesus demonstrated for us how to be proactive in meeting and engaging in conversation with others. Hanging back and waiting for others to join us is not an option. As Christians today, we are empowered by and accountable to Jesus' command in Matthew 28:18 to "go and make disciples of all nations..." This is not a passive but rather an active command.

How many apple seeds are in an apple? Usually, there are 5 to 8 seeds in an apple. **How many potential apples are in one of those apple seeds?** One apple tree can produce 300 to 800 apples in a lifetime!

How many potential disciples are in your group because you invited them? Suppose you invite 4 to 5 people, and then each of them invites 4 to 5 more, who then invite 4 to 5 more. By the 4th generation, there are more than 100 people following Jesus!

Year	Evangelist: *1 person saved per day, no discipleship*	Disciple maker: *1 on 1 teaching of the Gospel for a year (Mt. 28:18–20)*	Small Group of 4: *1 leading 3 others and teaching them to do the same. (Mt. 28:18–20)*
1	365	2	4
2	730	4	12
3	1,095	8	36
4	1,460	16	108
5	1,825	32	324
6	2,190	64	972
7	2,555	128	2,916
8	2,920	256	8,748
9	3,285	512	26,244
10	3,650	1,024	78,732
11	4,015	2,048	236,196
12	4,380	4,096	708,588
13	4,745	8,192	2,125,764
14	5,110	16,384	6,377,292
15	5,475	32,768	19,131,876
16	5,840	65,536	57,395,628
17	6,205	131,072	172,186,884
18	6,570	262,144	516,560,652
19	6,935	524,288	1,549,681,956
20	7,300	1,048,576	4,649,045,868

Your eventual goal should be to facilitate one small group and have yourself and those in your group facilitate new groups! Be disciples who make disciples who make disciples.

As you depend on God and His Spirit, may your expectations be to:

Facilitate a small group.

Encourage and equip those in your group to become facilitators for new small groups. Share this guide with those in your group at the proper time.

After those in your small group branch out and begin to facilitate their own groups, you start another small group you are facilitating.

Pray and plan for this process to repeat again and again!

Hope and pray that you get so much joy and fulfillment that you will do this naturally and repeatedly...train up and send out, find new people to train up and send out...again and again! (And when this happens, praise God that He has given you the Holy Spirit as your guide!)

"Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have given complete 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."

– Matthew 28:18-20 (NLT)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

"Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die like everyone else, will live again. They are given eternal life for believing in me and will never perish."

– John 11:25-26 (NLT)

- **deafchurchwhere.com** – to find a church
- **signasl.org** – a source for signs
- **deafharbor.org** – music and more
- **deafbible.com** – American Sign Language Version of the Bible (ASLV)
- **gotquestions.org** – Bible Questions answered
- **blueletterbible.org** – international language resources
- **YouVersion (app)** – the Bible in thousands of printed languages and versions
- **biblegateway.com** – the Bible in different versions along with other resources like commentaries
- **imb.org/2017/11/27/3-reasons-bible-storying-essential** – about storytelling
- **hearastory.org/how-it-works** – Bible basics simply communicated
- **discoverapp.org/discovery-bible-study** – discipleship method and studies
- **deafmissions.com** – resources created by Deaf Missions, including the ASLV
- **deafmillennial.com** – resources created by Deaf Millennial Project
- **deafkidsconnect.com** – resources created by Deaf Kids Connect – including encouragement for hearing parents of Deaf children and Dr. Wonders Workshop Back Page

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it."

– John 3:16-17 (NLT)

DEAF MISSIONS IS PROUD TO PARTNER WITH OTHER MINISTRIES TO ADVANCE THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.

THANK YOU TO

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