

START NCF

A Planting Guide for Nursing Students

Written by:

Nurses Christian Fellowship/USA | A Ministry of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA

NCF is a professional and ministry organization for nursing students, educators, and nurses, and publishes the *Journal of Christian Nursing*.

www.ncf-jcn.org

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START NCF ON YOUR CAMPUS!

Thank you for your interest in starting a new chapter of Nurses Christian Fellowship in your nursing school! This packet of resources will help you through the group launch process. As you begin this process, please email us at ncf@intervarsity.org to let us know! We will pray for you, coach you, and cheer you on as you bring God's Kingdom to your nursing school! Begin with these **5 Steps** to get your NCF group started.

STEP 1: SAY YES TO THE MISSION

The mission of NCF is for nursing students and faculty to be encouraged, equipped, empowered:

- **Encouraged** to grow in faith in the context of nursing school
- **Equipped** to integrate faith with nursing through Bible study and spiritual care resources
- **Empowered** to share your faith with other nursing students and faculty

Note that the mission of NCF has both internal and external components. NCF chapters care about the spiritual growth of both Christians and non-Christians on campus.

» **Ask yourself: Am I ready and willing to commit to this mission?** If so, take a moment to memorize and pray for the mission. Then, you are ready for Step 2!

STEP 2: FIND AND RECRUIT PARTNERS

Starting an NCF group is far easier (and more fun!) with key partners who will join you in the mission. Think about everyone you know in nursing school and identify:

- at least one Christian nursing student who can join you
- at least one Christian faculty member who can be a faculty advisor and advocate

(If you cannot think of potential partners in these categories, take time in the next few weeks to do some research—ask classmates about their faith or whether they attend church, ask a favorite faculty for suggestions, etc. Try not to move past Step 2 until you have found potential partners!)

Once you have found potential partners:

- Talk to each one individually: Share the mission and invite them to an initial prayer/planning meeting.
- During the prayer/planning meeting, go through the Prayer and Planning Worksheet (page 5).

This worksheet will help you make essential decisions before you launch your first NCF meeting.

» **Once you have finished the prayer/planning meeting and your partners have agreed to join you in the mission, you are ready for Step 3!**

STEP 3: INVITE & GET THE WORD OUT

Now that you have partners in the mission (your “team”), it is time to invite broadly to your new NCF group!

- Together with your partners, brainstorm everyone you can personally invite using the **Inviting Worksheet** (page 7).
- Besides personal invitations, look through the Recruitment Ideas List (page 8) and choose two ideas to try as a team before the first meeting.

» **Once you have determined whom to invite** (and are actively inviting), you are ready for Step 4!

STEP 4: LAUNCH THE NCF GROUP

Initially, your team should focus its energy on recruiting and inviting. But, of course, you also have a first meeting to run! NCF has written a **“First Four Meetings”** launch plan (page 9) that requires minimal prep.

- Prior to the first meeting, your team should work through the **Preparing for the First Meeting** section (page 9) in the **“First Four Meetings”** launch plan.
- Then, lead the first NCF meeting!
- For meetings 2-4, pick one person to lead each week. Other members of the team should look through the plan for the week to know what’s happening, but they do not need to prep thoroughly.

*NOTE: After the FIRST and THIRD meetings, please **email NCF at ncf@intervarsity.org** for personal coaching, leadership tips, and resource suggestions to help your group thrive.*

» **Once you have finished the first four meetings**, you are ready for Step 5!

STEP 5: EVALUATE THE LAUNCH

As with any nursing process, you should end the launch plan with a thorough **evaluation**.

- Set a time for your team to meet with an NCF staff (national) or an InterVarsity staff (local). Together, answer the questions for **Evaluating the Launch** on page 14.
- Based on your evaluation, decide what adjustments to make to continue growing the NCF ministry.

» **Congratulations! You have successfully launched your NCF chapter on campus!** Thank you for your perseverance in bringing God’s Kingdom to your nursing school—students are being encouraged, equipped, and empowered through your ministry!

NEXT STEPS (AFTER THE INITIAL LAUNCH)

As you continue leading the NCF chapter forward, here are the next things to consider:

- Decide on your next “curriculum” for NCF meetings. Look through the Bible studies prepared for nursing students at **ncf-jcn.org/resources**.
- Plan one meeting to share the gospel and invite a response. This will create a space for participants to process where they are on their spiritual journey. See the Appendix on page 15 for a sample gospel outline to invite others to follow Jesus and join his mission to heal the world.
- Begin the affiliation process with NCF/InterVarsity. This will “formalize” your chapter’s relationship with NCF and grant you permission to use the NCF name and logo beyond this initial launch phase. For more information, go to **ncf-jcn.org/students/campus-recognition**.

PRAYER AND PLANNING WORKSHEET

This worksheet is designed to help your team to think through the critical steps to launching an NCF chapter in your nursing school. We recommend setting aside at least 30 minutes to pray and plan together.

PART 1: HEAR THE WORD (SCRIPTURE STUDY AND NCF MISSION) ~15-20 minutes

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Read Mark 6:32-34 together.

³² So [Jesus and his disciples] went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. ³³ But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴ 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.

Discuss:

- How would you describe the crowd's reaction to Jesus in this passage? How was the crowd like "sheep without a shepherd?"
- What was Jesus' response to the crowd?
- In what ways are students and faculty at your nursing school like "sheep without a shepherd?" How do they need Jesus in their lives?

THE NCF MISSION

NCF exists because Jesus has compassion on nursing students and faculty...and so should we! The mission of NCF is for nursing students and faculty to be encouraged, equipped, and empowered:

- **Encouraged** to grow in faith in the context of nursing school
- **Equipped** to integrate faith with nursing through Bible study and spiritual care resources
- **Empowered** to share your faith with other nursing students and faculty

Note that the mission of NCF has both *internal* and *external* components. NCF chapters care about the spiritual growth of both *Christians* and *non-Christians* on campus.

Discuss:

- In what ways could an NCF chapter change your nursing school's culture and environment? What are your hopes for how NCF can impact your campus?

PRAY TOGETHER

Take a few minutes to pray for your campus. Pray that God will give you his compassion for students and faculty. And pray that NCF can be a place to reach out to those who are like "sheep without a shepherd."

PART 2: RESPOND ACTIVELY (MAKING A PLAN) ~10-15 minutes

Now that you have established the reason for starting an NCF chapter, begin to make a plan for its launch. Here are a few details to discuss and decide together:

NCF MEETING LOGISTICS

- **Meeting frequency.** The strongest NCF chapters meet weekly or biweekly. NCF chapters that meet monthly may have difficulty building momentum and community.
- **Meeting dates and times.** Most NCF chapters meet during the day, especially during lunch or midday breaks. Some chapters opt for an evening meeting to reduce the likelihood of class/clinical conflicts. If your school uses a cohort model, you may need to find a different day/time for each cohort. Otherwise, find a way to compile relevant schedules to determine best meeting times. *You may not find a time that will work for the entire nursing school—choose the best option for now.*
- **First meeting target date.** This is a good time to set the potential date for your first NCF meeting. Note that your team will be meeting **twice** before the first meeting—once to talk about inviting others and once to prepare together for the meeting. Because you will have both planning and inviting to do beforehand, we suggest allowing **at least 3-4 weeks** until the first meeting.
- **Meeting location.** Most NCF chapters meet in a classroom or other reserved room in the nursing school. Ask your faculty member to do this for you if possible. If not, consider another relatively quiet location on campus that you can get to easily (e.g. library, coffee shop, etc.).

OBTAIN PROPER PERMISSION

- **Inform Administration.** Although most nursing schools are open to new student groups, you should inform the administration of your intentions to start an NCF group. When talking with the administration, be sure to explain that:
 - o All students are welcome to attend NCF meetings, regardless of spiritual beliefs.
 - o NCF is a nationwide, reputable professional organization and publishes the *Journal of Christian Nursing* through Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.
 - o NCF student groups exist on more than 90 U.S. campuses.
- **Inform NCF.** Send an email to ncf@intiversity.org about your plans. This will help us know how to pray for you and offer resources. In addition, we can grant you the permission to use the NCF name and logo for your student group.

DETERMINE THE NEXT MEETING TIME

- Decide on your next meeting time as a team to discuss **Inviting and Getting the Word Out.**

INVITING WORKSHEET

This worksheet is designed to help your team make a plan for inviting other nursing students and faculty to your first NCF meeting.

PART 1: HOW DO WE INVITE?

WHAT IS NCF?

Most of us know how to invite someone to an event, as in “Would you be interested in coming to the first NCF meeting?” But often we are not prepared to respond when someone asks, “Umm...so what is NCF?”

- As a team, work together to write a concise, 15-second answer to the question, “What is NCF?” Share about your hopes and dreams for what NCF can do for nursing school. For example, “NCF is a safe place on campus where we can explore how faith intersects with nursing.” Or, “NCF is a community where we can grow as whole persons—not just academically, but spiritually and emotionally as well.”
- Then, memorize the answer so that each person is ready to respond when the question arises!

RECRUITMENT AND PUBLICITY BEST PRACTICES

Besides personal invitations (see Part 2 below), consider other methods to get the word out.

- Read through the list of recruiting ideas on the next page (page 8) and together decide on TWO ideas to try before the first meeting.
- Assign someone to create publicity: a quarter-page invite for handing out, possibly a full-page poster for hanging up (if permitted by your school). NCF has templates that you can customize. For a list of resources, see ncf-jcn.org/resources/new-student-outreach.

PART 2: WHOM SHOULD WE INVITE?

The short answer is: *everyone!* But your most effective invitations will be with people that you already know.

- With your team, brainstorm people who fit into each of the following categories:
 - Your clinical group
 - Christian and/or church-going students and faculty
 - Students who seem open to faith conversations (you may or may not know what they believe spiritually)
 - Students/faculty who are personal friends
- Assign each person on the list to one of your team members. It will be their responsibility to invite that person to the first NCF meeting. (*Note: If your list feels overwhelmingly large, it is okay not to invite everyone on our list for the first NCF meeting.*)

DETERMINE NEXT MEETING TIME

- Decide on your next meeting time as a team to **prep for the first NCF meeting!**

RECRUITMENT IDEAS: BEST PRACTICES

Try these ideas for meeting other students and inviting them to get involved in your NCF community.

- Take part in student **welcome events**.
- Host a table at your school's **organization fair**.
- Visibly promote your NCF chapter using a **table top display**.
 - NCF has two display options: one is **solid** and one has a **white space** to write in additional information. Download the design. A local copy shop can print it on corrugated plastic or foam board with an easel back (18" x 24" is a good size). You can also order through an **online vendor**.
- Set up a **display table outside of a major class** or stand near the door and hand out bookmarks/slips with meeting information. Consider handing out a treat with the flier.
- **Ask permission from professors** for a student to make an announcement at the end of class.
- Try an **all-student email broadcast** (some schools allow officially recognized student orgs to do this once a school year).
- Send an email through a pre-nursing advisor to all **pre-nursing students**.
- **Use social media** (Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, etc.).
- **Put up posters on bulletin boards** in areas where students study.
- Ask the school admissions counselors if NCF students can talk to new students during **orientation** days.
- **Hold an interest meeting** where NCF is explained, questions are answered, and planning takes place for events, Bible studies and service projects.
- **Advertise NCF at SNA meetings** (make sure that students know the two organizations are not competing against one another).
- And the **#1** way to grow your group: **personal invitations and word of mouth!**

NCF LAUNCH PLAN: FIRST FOUR MEETINGS

Here are checklists and leaders' notes for the first four meetings! Begin with "Preparing for the First Meeting" and the corresponding Bible study. Use the notes for the second, third, and fourth meetings for the following weeks.

PREPARING FOR THE FIRST MEETING

This worksheet is designed to help your team prepare for the first NCF meeting. The first meeting marks a significant turning point. You are no longer a small launch team; you are becoming an NCF chapter that reaches the whole nursing school! As with all new experiences, the first meeting will take more time to prepare for. Once your team has finished the first meeting, subsequent meetings will be easier and more familiar.

Each of the four meetings are built around Scripture studies. Bible study is the core of what most NCF chapters do. Through Scripture study, we collectively hear God's Word, we put it into practice, and we learn from that experience. We call this process the **Discipleship Cycle: Hear the Word, Respond Actively, Debrief and Interpret.**

PART 1: STUDY THE PASSAGE

SCANNING THE FIRST BIBLE STUDY

The first Bible study is titled **“Identity in Christ”** and can be found on page 17 of this packet. Print this page as a handout and give one copy to every participant in the meeting. As you scan the page, you will notice that it is divided into three components that correspond to the Discipleship Cycle, though in a slightly different order: *Debrief and Interpret*, *Hear the Word*, and *Respond Actively*. The **Debrief and Interpret** section focuses on evaluating the application from the previous meeting to capture the learning. The **Hear the Word** section introduces a new Scripture passage and discussion questions for this meeting. The **Respond Actively** section lists two possible application responses to put the Scripture passage into practice.

When you lead this initial meeting, you will follow this same sequence, though you will modify the **Debrief and Interpret** section since you have no previous applications to debrief!

STUDYING THE PASSAGE

As a team, do the “Identity in Christ” Bible study together:

- Ask someone to read the introduction (the italicized paragraph under Hear the Word).
- Ask someone to read the passage.
- Then, proceed to ask each question under the Discuss heading and try to answer them together. If you are stumped, look back at the passage for clues—answering the questions should not require extensive Bible knowledge or outside research. Note: As a leader, your job is not to be the “expert” but to be a good “facilitator.” You should have a general grasp of the passage, but you do not need to understand it exhaustively.
- Finally, read through the two applications under Respond Actively. Together, choose one to put into practice this week.

PART 2: MEETING OUTLINE

In preparation for your first NCF meeting, read through the suggested outline below. This will give your whole team a sense of what will happen during the meeting before dividing up roles. Items that you need to prepare and/or practice beforehand are marked in navy.

OUTLINE FOR MEETING (30 min. version) [See options for longer meetings in teal text]

- (2 min) Welcome, introduce team, and present the mission of NCF
 - o “Welcome to the inaugural NCF meeting!”
 - o Introduce everyone on the launch team.
 - o Briefly share the mission of NCF using the 15-second answer to “What is NCF” you developed previously. Include your hopes for NCF on campus.
- (3 min) Introductions & Icebreaker question (*If you have more time, ask people to share “highs” and “lows” from the past week—a high point and a low point of their week. That will extend this section for about 10-15 minutes.*)
 - o Unless the group is unmanageably large (15+), go around the room quickly and ask people to share their name, year, and answer a simple icebreaker question, such as *“What is your favorite ice cream flavor?”*

- (2 min) Explain what you will do at this NCF meeting and establish ground rules for discussion.
 - o Since no one knows what to expect at this meeting, you can ease the anxiety of the unknown by giving a preview. Say something like this: “At most NCF meetings, we will study a passage from Scripture together and try to apply it to our lives as nursing students. No matter where you are in your faith journey, whether you’ve been following God your whole life or just exploring the options, you’re welcome here!”
 - o Then establish some ground rules for discussion. Here is a sample: “Let me share two ground rules for our Bible discussion. First, I’d like everyone to participate. That means if you tend to say a lot, you may want to give other people a chance to share and hear from them. If you tend not to say anything, consider sharing something with us! All of us have things to share, so let’s all participate! Second, I’d like us to stick to this text in front of us. Some of us may know other parts of the Bible or have even heard sermons on this passage. But since we have such limited time, let’s keep our comments to what we can see in front of us on this paper. Okay?”
- (3 min) Hand out the printed Bible study, read the intro and the Scripture text. *[Feel free to call on someone to read one or both of these.]*
- (10 min) Go through the Discussion questions.
 - o Ask the first question. Wait for an answer. Then, turn to everyone else and ask the magic question, “What do others think?” Your goal is to generate **discussion**, not just **right answers**. Therefore, you want at least 2-3 people to have a chance to respond to each question before moving on.
 - o Continue through the remaining questions in the Discuss section.
- (6 min) Summary and Application *(if you have more time, consider processing the EXTERNAL application together as a whole group instead of breaking up into partners/triads. This is a chance to consider how to serve the nursing school together. It will extend this section about 10 minutes.)*
 - o Summarize the passage briefly (30 seconds)—you may want to have this written out beforehand.
 - o Then pick one of the two applications in the Respond Actively section. **Read it, give people a minute to think and reflect, then ask them to share with a partner or triad how they responded.**
 - o Encourage them to apply the Scripture this week by saying something like: “Studying the Bible without applying it is like learning a nursing skill without practicing it. Let’s all put this passage into practice this coming week—and at the beginning of the next meeting, we’ll do a quick check-in to see how it went and what we learned!”
- (4 min) Announcements, Prayer, End *(If you have more time, invite people to share prayer requests with one another during the prayer section. You can choose to either pray for the group or have them pray in partners or triads. This will extend this section about 10-15 minutes.)*
 - o Share any applicable announcements. Minimally, this will include:
 - Sign-in list (for people who came late)
 - Next meeting (date/time/location/topic)
 - Request that they invite others to the next meeting—bring some flyers or invitations to distribute so everyone can use them to invite others!
 - o Pray for the group (or have them pray in partners or triads)
 - o End the meeting

PART 3: MEETING PREP CHECKLIST

Work through this checklist to ensure that everything will be ready for the first meeting!

PRE-MEETING

- Publicity
- Personal invitations
- Room reserved
- Send reminders for people to come
- Make a “sign-in” sheet for names, emails (or phone numbers) to help you build your contact list
- Print copies of Bible study
- Divide meeting outline [There are roughly four segments—you can choose to assign them to the same person or different people]:
 - Welcome, Intro, Icebreaker
 - Ground Rules, Read and Discuss passage
 - Summary and Application
 - Announcements and Prayer
- Decide on applicable announcements
- Individually prep your sections
- Pray!

DURING MEETING

- Arrive 5 minutes early to set up room (if possible). Arrange chairs in a circle or rectangle instead of rows facing the front (if possible).
- If permitted, put up a sign for NCF outside of the room.
- Put the sign-in list on a table near the front entrance.
- Assign one person to greet people at the door (they can stand just outside) and ask guests to complete the sign-in list.
- Everyone else mingle, make small talk, and be gracious hosts.

AFTER MEETING

- Reset the room and take down NCF signs
- Send out a thank-you email to your list with a reminder about the application lesson from the study. Include information about the next meeting.
- Find a time to briefly connect with your team to evaluate how the meeting went (immediately afterwards is ideal).
 - Contact NCF at **ncf@intervarsity.org** with an update on your group so we know how to pray and encourage you!

PREPARING FOR THE SECOND MEETING

Congratulations on finishing your first NCF meeting! As you look ahead to the second meeting, “**Comfort in Suffering**,” (page 18) you will use the same general preparation process as the first meeting. A few changes:

REVISED OUTLINE

This outline includes the Debrief and Interpret section. It is also much less detailed, so feel free to refer to the first meeting outline as needed.

OUTLINE FOR MEETING (30 min. version) [See options for longer meetings in teal text]

- (2 min) Welcome, restate the mission of NCF
- (3 min) Introductions & Icebreaker question (*highs and lows if you have time*)
- (3 min) Debrief last meeting’s application from the Bible study.
 - Briefly summarize last meeting’s passage and application (30 sec).
 - Ask the questions in the **Debrief and Interpret** section of the passage. (*You may want to share first to jump-start the conversation.*)
- (1 min) Explain what you will do at this NCF meeting and establish ground rules for discussion.
- (3 min) Hand out passage, read the intro and the passage. [Feel free to call on someone to read one or both of these.]
- (10 min) Go through the Discussion questions.
- (5 min) Summary and Application (*extend this section if you have time*)
- (3 min) Announcements, Prayer, End (*prayer requests if you have time*)

INDIVIDUAL INSTEAD OF TEAM PREP

As long as people know who is doing what in the meeting, there is no need to prep the study as a team. Just assign roles and ask people to prep individually.

SEND A MEETING REMINDER

As you build your contact list, be sure to send a meeting reminder before every NCF meeting.

CONTINUE USING MEETING PREP CHECKLIST

This will help to ensure everything is on-track for the meeting.

LEADING THE THIRD AND FOURTH MEETINGS

The remaining two meetings can be led in the same way as the second one. After the third meeting, contact NCF at ncf@intervarsity.org so we can pray for your group and encourage you (or troubleshoot as needed)! We want to know what opportunities and challenges you are encountering.

EVALUATING THE LAUNCH

Congratulations! Your team has successfully completed the **NCF Launch Plan: First Four Meetings**—and your NCF group is well on its way to being established on campus. Because of your faithfulness, the gospel is going forward in your nursing school.

This is a good time to do an evaluation together. With your team, think about the past few weeks of the NCF launch and answer the following questions:

- How did you see God at work? What stories have you seen or heard?

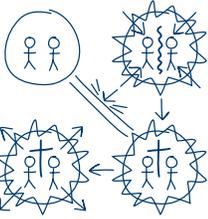
- What, if anything, surprised you?

- Remember back to your first prayer/planning meeting when you dreamed together about the type of impact NCF could make in your nursing school. What kind of impact has NCF had on your campus?

- What are you learning about leading a ministry on campus?

- What are a few things you want to do differently in the future?

BIG STORY GOSPEL OUTLINE



Do you long to understand the gospel in a fresh way while simultaneously learning a compelling way to share it with others? **The Big Story** is a gospel presentation tool for inviting others to follow Jesus Christ and get involved in his mission to heal the world.

The journey starts with World 2: Damaged by Evil.

WORLD 2: DAMAGED BY EVIL



1. We live in a broken, messed-up world. Just look around at the hospitals we work in with sickness, abuse, poverty, hurtful words, suffering.

Transition: But we all long for a better world, don't we? It's as if we knew that this was not the way God intended the world to be.

WORLD 1: DESIGNED FOR GOOD



1. The Bible tells us that God created the world to be a perfect place. He created us for right relationship with him, with each other, and with creation. Things were perfect!
2. But we thought we could do better ourselves. Instead of placing God at the center of our lives, we put our own selfish desires at the center. And as a result, like a cancer, everything fell apart (*reference World 2*). We broke our relationship with God, with each other, and with all creation.

Transition: That's a terrible story if it ended there, but God didn't want to leave us in this mess.

WORLD 3: RESTORED FOR BETTER



1. God sent his Son Jesus into our broken world. As he lived among us, he showed us the perfect way to live—what it means to make God at the center of our lives again. But people didn't like what he had to say, and they ultimately killed him on the cross.
2. But Jesus didn't stay dead. He rose again from the dead and conquered death and brokenness once and for all. By conquering death, he showed that he alone has the power to undo the brokenness in our hearts. He alone is the true healer who can heal our relationship with God.
3. When we believe Jesus and choose to follow him, he heals our hearts and we are once again restored to a right relationship with God.

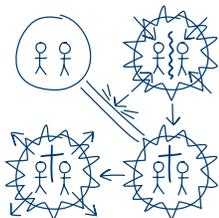
Transition: But that's not the end of the story.

WORLD 4: SENT TO HEAL



1. Once we choose to follow Jesus, he sends us into the world to bring his healing around us. We share the good news of Jesus wherever we go and we give our lives to healing the brokenness in our world.
2. This may mean sharing our faith with others, working against injustices, and being the best nurses and healers we can be.

WORLD 2 TO 4: JUMPING OVER WORLD 3



1. Now, many of us want to be healers—in fact, we are studying to be healers. We see the brokenness of the world (like World 2), and we find ourselves ready to jump to World 4 to be a healer.
2. But the Bible tells us that we cannot jump over World 3. While we may be able to heal the physical conditions, we cannot heal the state of our own hearts. And when our hearts are not healed and restored to God, we cannot bring God's spiritual healing to the world around us. We need Jesus' cross and resurrection in order to be restored to God before we can be his true healers for the world.

IDENTIFICATION: "WHERE MIGHT YOU PLACE YOURSELF IN THIS DIAGRAM?"

- **Circle 1:** Living in denial; I think everything is perfect in the world
- **Circle 2:** I see the problems in this world and within myself, but I don't know how to heal those problems. Or, I may know and believe some things about Jesus, but I'm still living independently from Jesus. Or, I may want to be a healer in the world, but I have not considered how Jesus could enable me to be a real healer.
- **Circle 3:** I believe and have entrusted myself to Jesus, but I have not yet committed to being part of his mission to heal my campus and the world.
- **Circle 4:** I am participating in his healing mission to change my campus and the world.

Ask: Which circle would you put yourself in?

INVITATION: "WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP FORWARD IN YOUR FAITH?"

- **Circle 1 to Circle 2:** The first step is to admit the brokenness in yourself and in the world around you. Are you ready to do that? Continue with Circle 2 invitation if they are ready.
- **Circle 2 to Circle 3:** The challenge is to entrust your whole self to Jesus today as the one who can change you and who can change the world. This means accepting that through his cross and resurrection, our hearts can be healed both now and for eternity. And that means making him the center of your life and following his good leading for you. Are you ready to do this?
- **Circle 3 to Circle 4:** Your challenge is to make that commitment and say to Jesus, "Yes, I'm going to be part of your healing mission on this campus and share your good news with my friends here." And that might mean taking a first step towards reaching out to a friend and telling them about Jesus. Are you ready to do this?
- **Circle 4 to Apprenticeship:** Your challenge is to grow your impact by being an apprentice or a leader with NCF/InterVarsity. That means learning the ropes of how to lead and impact this campus with us. Are you ready to do this?

If they say yes, walk them through how to do that.

If they say no or are unsure, thank them for their honesty. Try to find out more by asking, *what do you think is preventing you from taking the next step forward?* Then either address the issue or plan to meet up again later.

Either way, prepare to follow up by arranging another time to talk.

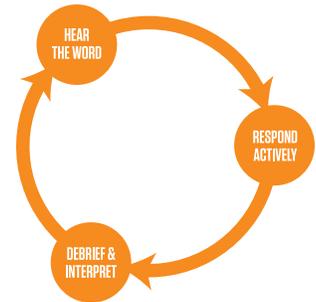
This resource is based on material from *True Story* by James Choung. The Big Story is also available as a free app for iOS and Android.

IDENTITY IN CHRIST

As you gather together to hear and apply God’s Word, start by sharing how the previous study influenced you since your group last met. Use the following questions for review.

DEBRIEF & INTERPRET

- How did you apply the previous Scripture study?
- What did you learn about God as you applied the Word? What did you learn about yourself?



HEAR THE WORD

Have you ever proudly said, “I’m going to be a nurse?” There is nothing wrong with this. However, it can be easy for your identity to become wrapped up in being a nurse rather than finding your identity in Christ. In this story, Martha gets so wrapped up in hosting Jesus for dinner that she forgets what is most important.

Read Luke 10:38-42.

³⁸ As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!” ⁴¹ “Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

DISCUSS

- Contrast Mary and Martha in this story. What do you notice about each of them?
- Often what we care about the most defines us. What defines each sister’s identity?
- What was Jesus trying to communicate about where we find purpose and meaning?

▶ RESPOND ACTIVELY

INTERNAL

In nursing school, we often find our identities in being a nurse or succeeding academically. As a nursing student, where do you primarily find your identity or value? In the coming week, commit to reminding yourself daily that your identity should be found in God’s love. Consider carrying a small token with you this week (e.g. a rock, a ribbon, etc.) that can serve as a tangible reminder for you to place your identity first in Jesus.

EXTERNAL

Finding your identity in Christ first and foremost means that you are becoming a Christian nurse, not a nurse who happens to be a Christian. As you think about being a Christian nurse, what is one thing you can do to put Christ first in your clinical experiences this week?

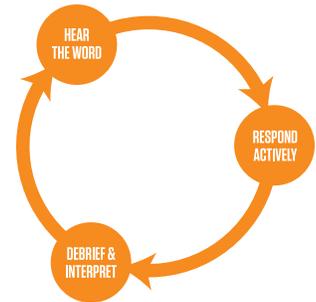
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COMFORT IN SUFFERING

As you gather together to hear and apply God's Word, start by sharing how the previous study influenced you since your group last met. Use the following questions for review.

DEBRIEF & INTERPRET

- How did you apply the previous Scripture study?
- What did you learn about God as you applied the Word? What did you learn about yourself?



HEAR THE WORD

Think of a time when you suffered in a difficult situation. How did others comfort you? In Paul's letter to the suffering believers in Corinth, he gives praise to the God of all comfort and encourages them to comfort each other. What can we learn from Paul's perspective on comfort and suffering?

Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-7.

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. ⁵ For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. ⁶ If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. ⁷ And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

DISCUSS

- Based on this passage, what can be some positive outcomes of suffering?
- How does Paul describe God and Jesus in this passage? What impact do you think this had on Paul's attitude towards suffering and distress?
- In verse 4 Paul mentions that, because of his troubles, he is able to comfort others in their troubles as well. How have you been able to comfort or encourage others because of troubles you have faced?

RESPOND ACTIVELY

As you end your study, choose one or both of the options below to apply the Scripture to your life this week.

INTERNAL

In what ways are you currently experiencing troubles or suffering? How can you be like Paul this week and choose to view suffering as an opportunity to provide comfort to others?

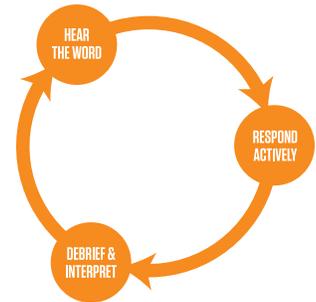
EXTERNAL

Consider other students and faculty in your nursing school (or patients if you're in a clinical setting) who are currently experiencing troubles or suffering. As an NCF chapter or as an individual, what is a concrete way you can provide comfort to them?

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RELYING ON OURSELVES OR GOD?

As you gather together to hear and apply God's Word, start by sharing how the previous study on Comfort in Suffering influenced you since your group last met. Use the following questions for review.



DEBRIEF & INTERPRET

- How did you apply the previous Scripture study?
- What did you learn about God as you applied the Word? What did you learn about yourself?

HEAR THE WORD

Who or what do you rely on to get you through challenging times? Paul wanted the Corinthian people to learn from his experience to fully depend on God when going through the trials of life.

Read 2 Corinthians 1:8-11.

⁸ We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. ⁹ Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. ¹⁰ He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, ¹¹ as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

DISCUSS

- Based on this passage, what can be some positive outcomes for suffering?
- What do you learn about God's character in these verses?
- What do you notice about how Paul views his sufferings? What gives him hope?
- Reflect on a time when you believed God was with you in a difficult situation. How does this experience help you rely on God in your current circumstances?

▶ RESPOND ACTIVELY

As you end your study, choose one or both of the options below to apply the Scripture to your lives this week.

INTERNAL

Think about where you are currently experiencing stressful situations (e.g. academic studies, difficult clinical experiences, family struggles, etc.). In what ways do you tend to rely on your own strength to get through these challenges? What is one concrete way you can rely on God more this week?

EXTERNAL

Practice relying on God more fully this week in your clinical setting. When you are faced with a challenging situation in your clinical experiences, take a moment to first pray for God's help for your patients before problem-solving.

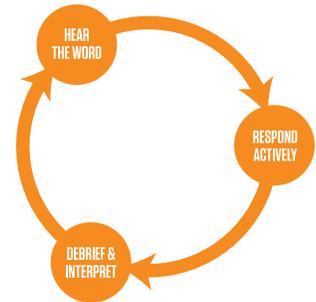
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SHINING LIKE STARS

As you gather together to hear and apply God’s Word, start by sharing how you were influenced by the previous study since your group last met. Use the following questions for review.

DEBRIEF & INTERPRET

- How did you apply the previous Scripture study?
- What did you learn about God as you applied the Word? What did you learn about yourself?



HEAR THE WORD

We all want to be exemplary students—to excel in the classroom and in clinical learning experiences. In Paul’s letter to the Philippians, he also encourages Christians to live exemplary lives, “like stars in the sky.”

Read Philippians 2:12-16.

¹² Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. ¹⁴ Do everything without grumbling or arguing, ¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky ¹⁶ as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.

DISCUSS

- What is God’s role, and what is our role, in how we live out our salvation as Christians?
- Why do you think Paul specifically focuses on not grumbling or arguing as the key steps to living an exemplary life (v.14)?
- What do you think it means to shine “like stars in the sky” (v.15)? Have you seen someone do this in an exemplary way in nursing school or in a clinical setting?

RESPOND ACTIVELY

As you end your study, choose one or both of the options below to apply the Scripture to your life this week.

INTERNAL

Because of the constant stress of nursing school, it may be easy to fall into grumbling, arguing, or complaining, rather than trusting in God. In what situations have you noticed yourself grumbling this year? Memorize verse 14 and remind yourself of this command throughout the week.

EXTERNAL

This passage encourages us to shine like stars in the midst of a warped generation.

- As a group, make a chart with two columns. In one column, identify warped and crooked actions you have noticed in your nursing school or clinical settings. In the other column, identify a concrete step to “shine like stars” in response to that action. For example, one item might read “nurses gossiping about colleagues” and a corresponding item might read “choosing to use only affirming words when interacting with other nurses.”
- Ask each person to pick 1-2 actions to practice this week in their classes and clinicals.

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