

loving Jesus and loving my friends...
THE ESSENTIALS

Trying it out

*following Jesus together
by doing Holy Experiments*

What are Holy Experiments?

Why are they important?

How do we live together in this way?

Trying it out

Scripture Verses

Jesus now called the Twelve and gave them authority and power to deal with all the demons and cure diseases. He commissioned them to preach the news of God's kingdom and heal the sick.

He said, "Don't load yourselves up with equipment. Keep it simple; you are the equipment. And no luxury inns—get a modest place and be content there until you leave.

If you're not welcomed, leave town. Don't make a scene. Shrug your shoulders and move on."

Commissioned, they left. They traveled from town to town telling the good news of God, the Message, and curing people everywhere they went.

Luke 9:1-6 (MSG)

Then the Lord commissioned seventy-two other disciples and sent them off in twos as advance-parties into every town and district where he intended to go.

Later the seventy-two came back full of joy.

They said, "Lord, even evil spirits obey us when we use your name!"

"Yes," returned Jesus, "I was watching and saw Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning! It is true that I have given you the power to tread on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the enemy's power..."

At that moment Jesus himself was inspired with joy, and exclaimed,

"O Father, Lord of Heaven and earth, I thank you for hiding these things from the clever and the intelligent and for showing them to mere children! Yes, I thank you, Father, that this was your will."

Luke 10:1 and Luke 10:17-20 & 22 (JB PHILLIPS)

"I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.

You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father.

Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!"

John 14:12-14 (NLT)

Short Thoughts

Jesus was **NEVER** stingy with His power. He always gave His followers chances to use His power to do God's will here on earth. First, Jesus showed them God's power by healing, feeding huge crowds with nothing but a single sack lunch, and even raising the dead.

The only problem with this was that Jesus' followers needed to trust Him. They needed to have faith to try "impossible" things whenever Jesus told them to. The Luke 9 passage above is where Jesus sent out the Twelve. They were to go out with no money, to offer to heal the sick, and to tell people about the Good News of Jesus. Kinda scary. No money. No cell phones.

The Luke 10 verses tell about Jesus sending out 72 others with the same exact instructions. The second part of the Luke 10 passage has them returning with some really great stories!

When they returned, Jesus got all excited! Why? Because Jesus had living proof of what would happen when He gave His power and authority to very ordinary people, miracles could happen!

The last night Jesus was with His people, He promised to send them the Holy Spirit. In the John 14 passage (above), Jesus tells His people that when He sent the Holy Spirit to them, they all would do even greater things than He had ever done. Jesus said that the Spirit would lead them to bring glory to God. All they had to do was obey.

A "Holy Experiment" is: **taking a step of faith for a friend discovered in prayer.** It's what those 72 guys did over 2,000 years ago. Why? Because Jesus told them to.

Trying it out

What Is A Holy Experiment?

A Holy Experiment is taking a step of faith for a friend, discovered in prayer.

Scientific experiments are great because they have no guaranteed outcome or required result. You are trying something just to see what happens. Shouldn't life with Jesus be the same way?

Following Jesus means listening to the Holy Spirit and responding. God puts something or someone on your heart. So, you try to obey what you think He wants you to do. And then you just sit back and see what God does.

Often, we put so much effort and planning into ministry on our campus. We make so many plans. And sometimes we fail and get very discouraged. But think about it... God never asks us for a specific outcome. God just wants us to listen and then make an experiment of listening to people and loving them. Regardless of the outcome, God is glorified because we stepped out in faith. Our part in all this is to obey. ***The only way to mess up an experiment is to NOT try it!***

SO... how would your life and ministry change if you did all of it as a "Holy Experiment" with Jesus? What would this look like on your campus? Think about this as you work through this section.

Holy Experiment Story

A ministry team of students went to their local shopping mall to see how they could serve (Holy Experiment!). They ended up at Target, collecting the shopping carts in the parking lot and putting them back into the store. It seemed simple and not very impressive, but the Target employee in charge of the carts responded by saying, "Whoa! No way! You guys just made my day! Thank you!" Serving others can be extremely simple.

Holy Experiments are **not** just about what we do. They are about listening, stepping out in faith and seeing what GOD wants to do through us!

Trying it out

Solo Exercise... *this solo exercise is an opportunity for you to work alone through some questions about the role of Holy Experiments in your life!*

- Write down a story about a time when you listened to God and did something ordinary, but He turned it into something extraordinary.

- Remember the 3-5 people you listed on pages 25 & 26 in your solo exercise in the Relationship section? Rewrite the names of those people below, then look back at that section and read the answers you wrote about those friends.

- Ask Jesus to help you meet a need in their lives this week. Ask Jesus if He can help you think of a Holy Experiment that you can do this week to pursue them and show Jesus love to them.

Solo Challenge

This week, we challenge you to **COMPLETE ALL OF THE HOLY EXPERIMENTS** you listed above. Don't be afraid. God has gone before you in the lives of these people. Don't worry about the outcome. God is asking you to take a chance for the sake of these people encountering His love. Take a risk—**GO LOVE SOMEONE!**

Trying it out

Team Exercise... *this team exercise is an opportunity for you and your community or campus team to answer some about doing Holy Experiments together.*

Read Acts 8:26-40 in your Bible, as a team, and then answer the questions below:

- How is this passage an example of a Holy Experiment? Where do you see Philip listening to the Lord and obeying Him?

- What ordinary thing did Philip do in this passage? How did God make it extraordinary?

Write down a story about a time your team did something ordinary and God turned it into something extraordinary (e.g. Taking snacks to the freshman football team, or picking up trash on campus).

Look back at the groups your team listed in the Relationships section on page 26. Rewrite the list in the space below. Then look back and reread your answers for the questions we asked you about these groups.

Based on the needs you see in these groups, what Holy Experiments can you try this week in order to pursue them, to get to know them better, to serve them, and to show Jesus' love to them?

Team Challenge

This is it. It's **GO TIME!** Take everything you've learned together as a team and put it into action. We challenge you to COMPLETE ALL OF THE HOLY EXPERIMENTS you listed THIS WEEK. THIS is your mission as a team of students who love Jesus and want to impact your campus for Christ!
GO LOVE SOME PEOPLE!!

Trying it out

CORE Groups...a big idea...

CORE Groups are teams of students with adult coaches who together, follow Jesus in a way that naturally invites friends to discover Jesus with them.

CORE Groups can be made up of students in a church small group, a Christian Club leadership team, or any other group of young Christians who want to see their friends come closer to Jesus.

There is **strength in numbers**. When we are together, we can encourage each other.

In the Message translation, Hebrews 10:24-25 says:

“Let’s see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshipping together as some do but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching.”

Wouldn’t it be great to be able to pray for each other and be prayed for each week?

No matter how good or how bad the week was, if we know that someone will be praying with us and for us, we can endure a lot!

CORE Groups are comprised of small groups of students who meet regularly with an adult coach. Usually these teams meet every week.

There are three elements that are always included in a **CORE Group** gathering time: **SHARE-PRAY-DISCOVER**.

These elements are more than agenda items, they are the backbone of how a Core team interacts.

SHARE: teammates share with one another the details, events, and meanings of their encounters with God’s Story, Their Own Story, and Their Friends’ Stories from the past week. They talk about how their **Holy Experiments** turned out during the past week.

PRAY: teammates pray for one another. They encounter God together in intercession, thanksgiving, scripture meditation, confession, etc.

DISCOVER: in prayer, teammates discover what God wants to do through them for the sake of their friends in the coming week. They tell each other what **Holy Experiments** they believe God wants them to do in the coming week.

CORE Group Challenge

1. Approach one or two of your friends to start a CORE GROUP.
2. Ask an adult to meet with you each week.
3. You can get free CORE Group curriculum sent to you each week by going to: socialcoregroups.com or by texting CORETEAM to 66866