

The Four Priorities First Meeting and Introduction

Book by John Tolson

Facilitator Guide by Reclamation Church

For the Facilitator

This guide was put together to help facilitate the discussions between you and the person you disciple. Some people don't feel quite comfortable guiding a conversation from one topic to the next, especially with a book study. Hopefully, this guide will help in that effort.

As the facilitator, you will need to set aside some preparation time each week for the lesson so you can better guide the conversation, understand where the author is headed, and add *your own* observations and biblical references where necessary. Do this by reading ahead in the chapter, looking up corresponding Biblical passages, and also reading through the facilitator guide. However, this is only a guide; feel free to make it your own and let the Holy Spirit guide you. The timelines in the facilitator guides are merely suggestions; you will determine how much time to spend as you go. You may encounter rabbit-trail discussions that are necessary to follow, while others may be detractions.

Prayer is an important place to begin when leading another believer. Ensure your *walk* with God is taking place, that you are growing personally in the Word, that you rely on the Holy Spirit to guide your conversations, and that *you* set a godly example to be followed.

Throughout your time together, think about *how* to help the person you disciple grow. Think ahead regarding what you will study together *after* the Four Priorities. The aim of the Four Priorities book is for the person you disciple to pick it up and begin discipling another person. However, newer believers may still need more Biblical instruction and knowledge of God, Christ Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and a growing walk as believers before discipling another person. This is what you need to consider well before reaching chapter 28.

Additionally, consider how you can help to grow them in their leadership. If they are going to disciple another person by the end of this book, how have you prepared them to do this? You might consider having them lead some of the discussions themselves, perhaps starting with Priority #3 or #4 if they are comfortable. Please share these facilitator guides with them to aid in their own leadership and discipleship.

First Meeting

Open (10 min.)

Spend a few minutes catching up, then share prayer requests.

Open in prayer (see sample below, if needed):

- God, we praise you as the one who provides for all our needs.
 - Thank you for bringing us together to learn more about who you are.
 - Help us to also learn more about one another today and guide us in our discussions.
 - In Jesus' name, amen!
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Note: If this is your first meeting, you might consider asking the following questions to better understand where they are in their faith. This should be a *two-way* conversation.

Get to know you (45 min)

- Tell me a little about yourself.
- Tell me about your faith journey.
- In your own words, who is God?
- What do you know about Jesus Christ?
- What has your experience with the church been like?
- What would you say is the purpose of the church gathering?
- If you could wave a “magic wand,” what would be some of your life goals?
- What are some of your faith goals?
- What are you hoping to accomplish in our time together?

Close (5 min.)

Introduce *The Four Priorities* book. Set the expectation that, for each meeting, you will both come prepared to have read a section of the book and to share findings and discuss during your next scheduled meeting. You’ll notice a QR code for each chapter, which you can choose to watch as well.

Homework: Read the Introduction through page XIII.
Schedule next meeting and close in prayer.

Introduction

Open (10 min.)

Spend a few minutes catching up, then share prayer requests.

Open with a brief prayer.

Recap (1 min.)

Briefly give a summary of your meeting last week (bringing up any interesting facts gained by learning about their faith journey).

Current Introduction (20 min.)

Say: On the WARNING page, preceding the Introduction, Tolson asks, “At the end of your days, what do you want your life to count for?”
How would you answer that question?

Ask: In the **Introduction**, the author mentions the “dash” on a tombstone that represents our life. How would you answer the four questions he posed?

- Does my relationship with God affect my daily existence, or do I acknowledge His presence primarily on Sundays and in emergencies?
(*Note:* to draw out their response, ask questions such as: “In what way does your relationship with God affect your daily existence?” If it is primarily on Sundays or in emergencies, ask, “Why do you think that is?”)
- Am I committed to continual growth and development in every dimension of my life, or do I merely exist day to day, following the path of least discomfort?
- Do I cultivate meaningful relationships with others, or do I maintain superficial contact with people I like to keep from feeling lonely?
(*Note:* to dig deeper, ask, “Why is that the case?”)
- Do I intend to create a lasting impact on my community and in the lives of individuals, or am I more concerned with my own comfort and prosperity?

Ask: Why do you think God wants us to live a life that makes a lasting impact for Him?

Say: Hopefully, during our time together, we will both see spiritual growth in our lives, not only in head knowledge, but in a desire to walk closer to Christ and obey His Word.

**The Four
Priorities
(10 min.)**

Say: The foundation of the Four Priorities is having a:

- Commitment to Jesus Christ
- Commitment to yourself
- Commitment to relationships
- Commitment to the work of Christ in the world

Ask: As you read the scriptures before today, what stood out to you?
Is one priority more challenging than the other for you?

(*Note:* Consider *briefly* sharing *your own* experiences in these four areas.)

**Pass It On
(15 min.)**

Say: As we begin our journey of meeting together and being disciples, after we begin to grow in our head and heart knowledge, we are then called to *make* disciples. What that means is that at a certain point in your journey, **you** will go from being a disciple to making another disciple.

Ask: How does it feel knowing that God will eventually ask you to disciple someone? (*probably uncertain, won't think they will be able to, or excited, and looking forward to this growth*)

Ask: What did you learn from the sections “A Disciple is a Learner, Follower, and Producer?” (Discuss)

Say: Right now, you are in the Learner and Disciple stages, and we will be on this journey together. What's *key* here is the word **transformation**. God's Word should transform our lives in the way we think, act, and live until the day we see him face-to-face.

(*Note:* The author placed scripture references on these pages. If there are any scriptures that you need to read together, take time to do that now.)

Ask: Do you have any questions?

**Close
(5 min.)**

Homework: Read Chapter 1 and spend time reading the details of the scriptures mentioned on pages 6-7. Come prepared with questions you might have from these passages, as well as completing the end-of-chapter questions.

Schedule next meeting and close in prayer.