

8-Session Discipleship Group Study Guide:

Supporting a Faith-Driven Entrepreneur within the NRHC faith family, as a Dgroup

Faith Driven Entrepreneur 8-Session Study & Rachel's Entrepreneurial Initiatives

This 8-session discipleship group study, inspired by J.D. Greear's *Faith Driven Entrepreneur* video series, is designed to equip and encourage our NRHC discipleship group in supporting Rachel's entrepreneurial initiatives—a book-selling and market garden business. The study will serve multiple purposes:

1. **Deepen Understanding of Faith-Driven Entrepreneurship** – By exploring biblical principles of business, stewardship, and calling, participants will gain a richer understanding of what it means to integrate faith and work in entrepreneurship.
2. **Strengthen Support for Rachel's Business Launch** – This study will provide a structured environment where Dgroup members can actively engage in supporting Rachel, offering encouragement, accountability, and practical assistance in developing her ventures.
3. **Practical Application for Gospel-Centered Business** – The group will discuss ways to ensure Rachel's business aligns with Gospel values, focusing on ethical business practices, kingdom impact, and sustainable growth within a faith-driven framework.
4. **A Model for Future NRHC Entrepreneurial Discipleship Groups** – By walking through this study together, we aim to establish a replicable model within NRHC for other entrepreneurs in the faith family. This will serve as a foundation for future groups that provide both spiritual and practical support to those launching Kingdom-minded businesses.

The **8-session agenda and printable study guide** will serve as a roadmap, facilitating meaningful discussions, prayer, and hands-on support for Rachel's entrepreneurial journey. The ultimate goal is not just to assist Rachel in her business endeavors but also to cultivate a faith-driven entrepreneurial community within NRHC that empowers others to step boldly into their God-given callings.

Overview

This 8-session study guide is designed for a small group of Christian women meeting weekly for 90-minute sessions. The purpose is to understand and support the group member who is launching both a book selling and market garden business, while exploring how each member can apply faith-driven principles in their own spheres of influence.

Format for Each Session (90 minutes)

- Welcome & Opening Prayer (5 minutes)
- Scripture Meditation (5 minutes)
- Video Viewing & Lesson Review (30 minutes)
- Group Discussion (30 minutes)
- Prayer & Support for Entrepreneur (15 minutes)
- Practical Action Steps (5 minutes)

Materials Needed:

- Bible
 - Journal (a special place to record thoughts, insights, prayer requests and action steps)
 - Faith Driven Entrepreneur video series
 - Study Guide
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Session 1: Our Call to Create

Preparation - Read Genesis 1:26-28 and Exodus 31:1-11

Welcome & Opening (5 minutes)

Begin with prayer, asking God to guide your discussions and to help each member understand how they can support faith-driven entrepreneurship.

Scripture Meditation (5 minutes)

"God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'" —Genesis 1:28

Video Highlight Review (30 minutes)

- Watch Session 1 video together
- Briefly review key points from Session 1 of the Faith Driven Entrepreneur series
- Discuss J.D.'s explanation of Bezalel and Oholiab as skilled craftsmen empowered by God
- Highlight our call to be co-creators with God across all spheres of life

Group Discussion (30 minutes)

1. Personal Reflection: How do you see your own gifts and talents as a reflection of God's creativity? Have you ever felt that your work outside "ministry" was less spiritual?
2. Supporting Our Entrepreneur: What specific qualities do you see in our entrepreneur sister that reflect God-given creativity? How might her book selling and garden business uniquely meet needs in our community?
3. Scripture Application: Read Exodus 31:1-11. How does God describe Bezalel and Oholiab's gifts? What parallels do you see with talents needed for running a book business and market garden?
4. Practical Inquiry: What unique needs might a book selling business address in our community? What about a market garden? How could these businesses become "cultural change agents"?
5. Support Brainstorm: What are practical ways we can each support our entrepreneur's vision with our own unique skills? (Examples: marketing help, business connections, physical help with garden setup, etc.)

Prayer & Support Time (15 minutes)

- Gather around your entrepreneur sister
- Each member prays for a specific aspect of her budding businesses
- Listen for any current needs or challenges she faces

Practical Action Step (5 minutes)

Before next session, each member should:

- Observe one way God might be using businesses in your community to meet real needs
- Write down one or two skills you have that could specifically support our entrepreneur sister
- Memorize Genesis 1:28

Session 2: God Owns My Business

Preparation- Read Psalm 24:1 and 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Welcome & Opening (5 minutes)

Begin with prayer, asking God to help each member understand biblical stewardship.

Scripture Meditation (5 minutes)

"He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness." —2 Corinthians 9:10

Video Highlight Review (30 minutes)

- Watch Session 2 video together
- Review J.D.'s distinction between ownership and stewardship
- Highlight the concept that God owns everything, and we manage His resources
- Discuss how this perspective changes business decisions and practices

Group Discussion (30 minutes)

1. Personal Reflection: What possessions or abilities do you find hardest to view as "on loan" from God? How does the owner vs. steward mindset challenge your thinking?
2. Supporting Our Entrepreneur: What might stewardship (versus ownership) look like specifically in a book selling business? In a market garden business? How could this perspective influence decisions about inventory, pricing, and business practices?
3. Practical Application: Our entrepreneur friend has two businesses to steward. What unique stewardship challenges might arise with managing both a book business and market garden simultaneously? How might seasonal rhythms affect each business?
4. Scripture Insight: Read Luke 19:11-27 (Parable of the Ten Minas). What principles about stewardship does this parable teach that could apply to business?
5. Future Vision: If God truly owns these businesses, how might they look different in their practices than competitors? How could "God's ownership" be evident to customers who visit the bookshop or buy produce?

Prayer & Support Time (15 minutes)

- Pray specifically about startup costs, initial inventory decisions, and business registration needs
- Ask God to provide wisdom for stewarding limited resources in the startup phase
- Listen for specific financial challenges our entrepreneur sister might be facing

Practical Action Step (5 minutes)

Before next session, each member should:

- Identify one resource (connection, skill, physical item) you could share to support the businesses
- Reflect on how you view your own possessions as things to steward rather than own
- Memorize 2 Corinthians 9:10

Session 3: Don't Worship Work

Preparation- Read Ecclesiastes 2:17-26 and 1 Timothy 6:6-8

Welcome & Opening (5 minutes)

Begin with prayer, asking God to guide your understanding of work-life balance.

Scripture Meditation (5 minutes)

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that." —1 Timothy 6:6-8

Video Highlight Review (30 minutes)

- Watch Session 3 video together
- Review J.D.'s discussion of entrepreneurs' challenges with depression, burnout, and overwork
- Highlight Solomon's wisdom from Ecclesiastes about finding meaning beyond work
- Emphasize that work should serve God, not become a god

Group Discussion (30 minutes)

1. Personal Reflection: Where in your life have you experienced the temptation to find your identity in productivity or achievement? How has this affected your wellbeing?
2. Supporting Our Entrepreneur: Running two businesses (books and gardening) could easily become all-consuming. What specific burnout risks might our entrepreneur sister face in her first year? How can we help her establish healthy rhythms from the start?
3. Practical Wisdom: Market gardening is seasonal and weather-dependent, while bookselling might have holiday sales surges. How might these business cycles create both opportunity and stress? What systems could help manage these fluctuations?
4. Scripture Application: Read Matthew 11:28-30. How might Jesus' invitation to rest apply specifically to an entrepreneur juggling two businesses? What does his "easy yoke" look like in practice?
5. Support Strategy: What signs of overwork or burnout should we watch for in our entrepreneur friend? How can we compassionately intervene if we notice these signs?

Prayer & Support Time (15 minutes)

- Pray specifically for establishment of healthy boundaries and sustainable rhythms
- Ask God to help your entrepreneur sister resist the "always working" temptation
- Discuss how the group can provide accountability for self-care

Practical Action Step (5 minutes)

Before next session, each member should:

- Identify one way you could help create space for rest in our entrepreneur's schedule (childcare, meal preparation, offering to staff the business occasionally, etc.)
- Reflect on your own work habits and where you need more balance
- Memorize Matthew 11:28-30

Session 4: Excellence Matters

Preparation- Read Colossians 3:23-24 and Proverbs 22:29

Welcome & Opening (5 minutes)

Begin with prayer, asking God to help you understand excellence as a spiritual principle.

Scripture Meditation (5 minutes)

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." —Colossians 3:23-24

Video Highlight Review (30 minutes)

- Watch Session 4 video together
- Review J.D.'s teaching on excellence as a reflection of God's character
- Discuss how Christian businesses sometimes have poor reputations for quality
- Highlight how excellence in business serves as witness

Group Discussion (30 minutes)

1. Personal Reflection: Where have you experienced or witnessed exceptional quality from a Christian business? Where have you seen disappointing quality that undermined Christian witness?
2. Supporting Our Entrepreneur: What would "excellence" specifically look like in a Christian book selling business? In a market garden? How might these standards differ from secular competitors?
3. Customer Experience: For books: What creates an excellent browsing and purchasing experience? For produce: What creates an excellent shopping experience for garden products? How could excellence in these areas reflect God's character?
4. Practical Challenges: What specific challenges might our entrepreneur face in maintaining excellence while juggling two distinct businesses? How can we help her identify and maintain non-negotiable quality standards?
5. Kingdom Impact: How might a reputation for excellence in these two businesses open doors for Gospel conversations? What impression might customers form about Christianity through interaction with these businesses?

Prayer & Support Time (15 minutes)

- Pray for wisdom in establishing quality standards and systems
- Ask for God's guidance in knowing where to invest in quality and where to be practical
- Discuss any areas where the entrepreneur feels uncertain about meeting excellence standards

Practical Action Step (5 minutes)

Before next month, each member should:

- Research one "best practice" in either bookselling or market gardening to share
- Identify one area where you could help the entrepreneur maintain excellence (through skills, connections, or resources)
- Memorize Colossians 3:23-24

Session 5: Faithful vs. Willful

Preparation- Read Mark 8:34-38 and Psalm 127:1-2

Welcome & Opening (5 minutes)

Begin with prayer, asking God to guide your understanding of identity and faithfulness.

Scripture Meditation (5 minutes)

"For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul?" —Mark 8:36-37

Video Highlight Review (30 minutes)

- Watch Session 5 video before gathering
- Review J.D.'s teaching on identity rooted in Christ versus achievement
- Highlight the distinction between faithfulness (our responsibility) and outcomes (God's responsibility)
- Discuss the importance of rest and proper role prioritization

Group Discussion (30 minutes)

1. Personal Reflection: Where do you find your sense of worth and identity? How do you handle seasons where your efforts don't produce visible results?
2. Supporting Our Entrepreneur: How might our entrepreneur friend struggle with identity as she launches these businesses? What unique pressures might she face if one business thrives while the other struggles?
3. Roles Exploration: List the many roles our entrepreneur sister now juggles (businesswoman, perhaps mother/wife, friend, church member, etc.). How can we help her prioritize these roles biblically?
4. Practical Wisdom: How might the rhythms of a market garden business (seasonal planting, growth, harvest) teach important spiritual lessons about patience and trusting God's timing? How could these lessons apply to book selling?
5. Support Strategy: What practical ways can we help her establish rhythms of rest? How can we affirm her identity in Christ separate from business performance?

Prayer & Support Time (15 minutes)

- Pray specifically for identity rooted in Christ rather than business success
- Ask God to help establish sustainable rhythms of work and rest
- Listen for specific identity struggles or pressures she may be experiencing

Practical Action Step (5 minutes)

Before session month, each member should:

- Offer one specific way to support a healthy rhythm (maybe watching children, helping with a task, etc.)
- Reflect on where your own identity lies and what God might be teaching you
- Memorize Mark 8:36-37

Session 6: Ministry in Word

Preparation- Read Genesis 32:22-32 and Ephesians 2:8-10

Welcome & Opening (5 minutes)

Begin with prayer, asking God to help you understand how failure and weakness can be used by Him.

Scripture Meditation (5 minutes)

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." —Ephesians 2:8-9

Video Highlight Review (30 minutes)

- Watch Session 6 video together
- Review J.D.'s teaching on Jacob wrestling with God and "leading with a limp"
- Highlight how God often works through our failures and weaknesses
- Discuss dependence on God versus self-reliance in business

Group Discussion (30 minutes)

1. Personal Reflection: Share a time when a failure or weakness ultimately strengthened your faith or led to unexpected blessing. How did that experience change your perspective?
2. Supporting Our Entrepreneur: What specific business challenges or failures might our entrepreneur face in her first year (crop failures, slow book sales periods, etc.)? How can we help her see these as opportunities for growth rather than defeat?
3. Vulnerability Exploration: How might "leading with a limp" (being authentic about struggles) actually strengthen customer relationships in these businesses? What might authentic Christian entrepreneurship look like?
4. Scripture Insight: Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. How does Paul's perspective on weakness apply to entrepreneurship? How might acknowledging weakness actually demonstrate greater faith?
5. Practical Application: How can our entrepreneur integrate her faith story - including struggles and God's faithfulness - into her business narrative? What opportunities might each business provide for authentic sharing?

Prayer & Support Time (15 minutes)

- Pray specifically for courage in the face of inevitable setbacks
- Ask God to use weaknesses and challenges for kingdom purposes
- Listen for current struggles that need specific prayer and support

Practical Action Step (5 minutes)

Before next month, each member should:

- Share one personal "failure story" that became a growth opportunity with our entrepreneur
- Identify one area where you could provide practical support if business challenges arise
- Memorize 2 Corinthians 12:9

Session 7: Ministry in Deed

Preparation- Read 1 John 3:16-18 and James 2:14-17

Welcome & Opening (5 minutes)

Begin with prayer, asking God to show how businesses can tangibly demonstrate Christ's love.

Scripture Meditation (5 minutes)

"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." —1 John 3:18

Video Highlight Review (30 minutes)

- Watch Session 7 video together
- Review J.D.'s teaching on working from acceptance rather than for acceptance
- Highlight how business becomes ministry when motivated by love for others
- Discuss ways businesses can tangibly love customers, employees, and communities

Group Discussion (30 minutes)

1. Personal Reflection: How have you experienced God's love through the practical actions of others? How has this impacted your faith journey?
2. Supporting Our Entrepreneur: How could a book selling business tangibly demonstrate Christ's love to customers? How could a market garden business do the same? What specific practices might show this love?
3. Community Impact: What specific needs in our community could these businesses help address? (Food insecurity, literacy, community gathering spaces, etc.)
4. Business Practices Exploration: What specific policies around pricing, customer service, sourcing, and community engagement might demonstrate Christ-like love in these businesses?
5. Support Strategy: What resources, connections, or expertise can our group offer to help these businesses maximize their community impact?

Prayer & Support Time (15 minutes)

- Pray for creative wisdom in developing loving business practices
- Ask God to reveal specific community needs these businesses could address
- Listen for opportunities to connect our entrepreneur with community partners

Practical Action Step (5 minutes)

Before next session, each member should:

- Research one community need that might connect with either business
- Identify one connection or resource that could help the businesses demonstrate Christ's love
- Memorize 1 John 3:18

Session 8: Global Movement

Preparation- Read Matthew 28:18-20 and Acts 18:1-4

Welcome & Opening (5 minutes)

Begin with prayer, asking God to expand your vision for business as mission.

Scripture Meditation (5 minutes)

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and 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." —Matthew 28:19-20

Video Highlight Review (30 minutes)

- Watch Session 8 video before gathering
- Review J.D.'s teaching on the Great Commission and marketplace ministry
- Highlight how ordinary businesses played crucial roles in spreading the gospel in Acts
- Discuss the potential global impact of faithful local businesses

Group Discussion (30 minutes)

1. Personal Reflection: How has your vision for the Great Commission expanded through this study? Have you considered how your daily work connects to God's global mission?
2. Supporting Our Entrepreneur: How might a book selling business connect to global mission work? How might a market garden? What specific practices could integrate global awareness into local business?
3. Future Vision: If these businesses thrive over the next 5-10 years, what kingdom impact might they have beyond our local community? What would it look like for them to intentionally invest in global mission?
4. Practical Ideas: What specific products, partnerships, or practices could connect these local businesses to global needs? (Book selections highlighting global issues, supporting international authors, selling fair trade products, etc.)
5. Long-term Support: How can our group provide ongoing encouragement and accountability as these businesses mature? What specific commitments can we make to support our entrepreneur's kingdom vision?

Prayer & Support Time (15 minutes)

- Thank God for the journey you've taken together over these eight months
- Pray for clarity of vision and kingdom impact for these businesses
- Make specific commitments to ongoing support and encouragement

Practical Action Step (5 minutes)

- Create a specific plan for how your group will continue supporting this entrepreneur
- Each member commit to one ongoing way they'll support these businesses