

Study Series: Difference Makers

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 Lesson Title: “Running to Trouble” (pp. 144-155)

Session 12

February 20, 2022

**The main point of this lesson is:** Difference makers go to trouble, not away from it.

**Focus on this goal:** To help adults leave their comfort zones to minister to hurting people

**Key Bible Passages:** Matthew 25:34-36,40; James 1:27

Before the Session

**Read** the lyrics and story behind the song “Me and Becky” (https://genius.com/Chris-rice-me-and-becky-lyrics#about) (Step 4)

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

**Ask** what comes to mind when participants hear “good trouble.” **Note** some might recall a speech by late politician and civil rights activist John Lewis telling listeners to “Get in good trouble, necessary trouble.”\* **Ask:** *Regardless of whether you agree with Lewis’s politics, do you agree there is such a thing as good and necessary trouble? Explain your reasoning.*

**Read** the main point of this lesson statement (p. 154). This session challenges us to run to good and necessary trouble in Jesus’ name.

Step 2. Trouble, Trouble Everywhere

**Declare:** *John Lewis’s speech and death are not usually the first thing that comes to mind when we think of 2020—what is? As we read the first paragraphs of Day One we may think, “If only the author knew what was coming!” But God knew, and He had already purposed for His people to run to trouble and minister to others during the pandemic.*

**Discuss** Day One, activity 1 (p. 145) as related to the pandemic and other times of great need.

**Discuss** Day One, activity 2 (pp. 145-146).

Step 3. Lukewarm Christians

**Lead** the group to repeat the first line of the Difference Maker Declaration (p. 66). **Ask:** *What percentage of Christians would you estimate believe that? What percentage would you estimate live it? What leads you to that conclusion?*

**Analyze** how the “American Dream” contributes to many American churchgoers being lukewarm Christians, content to watch from the sidelines. **Explore** the author’s description of lukewarm Christianity as a “weird combination of guilt, greed, and a desire to help others” (p. 147).

**Discuss** the first two questions of Day Two, activity 2 (p. 148).

**Request** a volunteer read the last paragraph of Day Two (p. 148).

Step 4. Looking for Trouble

**Relate** the story behind the song “Me and Becky” and **read** some of the lyrics. **Analyze** how “Becky” illustrates the challenge many believers feel of living for Jesus while living in the United States.

**Assert** there’s nothing wrong with being wealthy, but it does have its own challenges and responsibilities. **Discuss** Day Three, activity 1 (pp. 148-149). **Ask:** *According to this world’s standards, we are all wealthy. Rather than retreating into the safety of our wealth, we are called to run to trouble. What has to happen before we can run to trouble? How can we find trouble?*

**Read** the Day Three pull quote (p. 149). **Analyze** how believers go through life with eyes open, shut, squinting, or blurred.

Step 5. Looking in the Word

**Ask** what the first step is in looking for and running to trouble (p. 149). **Read** the Day Four pull quote (p. 150). **Challenge** adults to increase Bible intake. **Explore** specific ways participants can become more consistent in Scripture reading.

**Ask:** *What must we guard against when we determine to read the entire Bible or engage in an in-depth study?* **Declare** we are not just to read Scripture for knowledge or for ways to stay out of trouble, but to seek to know God and His heart so He can transform us into difference makers who run to trouble.

**Discuss** Day Four, activity 1 (p. 150). **Request** participants silently consider Day Four, activity 2 (p. 151).

Step 6. Looking in the World

**State** we can obviously look for and find trouble in the world. **Consider** the challenges when seeing trouble in the world. (Samples: we feel overwhelmed, think it’s somebody else’s problem.) **Ask:** *How can we know which of the world’s many problems we’re supposed to run to in order to serve?*

**Draw attention** to the Day Five statement (p. 152), “The key is to keep your eyes open and ask God to guide you ….” **Ask:** *What is the greater challenge for you—identifying the trouble or gaining the courage to run to it?*

**Invite** a volunteer to read 2 Corinthians 1:3-11. **Ask:** *What about Paul’s situation might cause us to be afraid to run to trouble? What can we gain from this passage to gives us courage to run to trouble?*

**Read** and discuss the Day Five paragraph (p. 153) beginning, “He’s your Father.”

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

**Ask:** *The author challenges us to start with “yes” this week. How can we encourage one another to say “yes” to running to good and necessary trouble?*

**Brainstorm** ministry projects the group can do together (**consider** the people and situations identified in Day Four, activity 1, p. 150), settling on one, if possible.

**Say** the Difference Maker Declaration together as your closing prayer.

After the Session

**Recruit** a participant to head up your Step 7 group ministry project.

\* [https://www.brookings.edu/blog/how-we-rise/2020/07/23/five-things-john-lewis-taught-us-about-
getting-in-good-trouble/](https://www.brookings.edu/blog/how-we-rise/2020/07/23/five-things-john-lewis-taught-us-about-getting-in-good-trouble/)

