

## **A Look Ahead Small Group Guide**

**Warm-up Question:** (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. What is one thing you think you would like and one thing you think you wouldn't like about living in the first century?
2. Which would be more difficult for you: Going without sweets or going without television/movies/Netflix/YouTube?

**Read the following passage:** Luke 5:36-39.

Jesus employed the metaphor of a wineskin to teach his disciples that the coming of God's kingdom and the inauguration of a new covenant would be accompanied by significant changes in the religious structures they were so accustomed to. As God continues to bring his kingdom to new places and new people we need to be willing to make adjustments to our systems, habits, and mindsets.

**Questions for Discussion** (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. What are some ways the new covenant and church differ from Israel and the covenant God established through Moses? What are some things that remain the same across all the stages of God's program of salvation? If a friend asked you how he could connect with God, what would you say?
2. As wineskins aged, they lost their flexibility. Pouring new wine into old wineskins would cause the skins to burst. What are some ways in which you think you need to deliberately remain flexible in this season of your life? How might a lack of flexibility hinder our participation in God's plans for our lives? Can you think of an area of your life in which you have benefited from becoming more flexible? Explain.
3. The purpose of a wineskin was to hold and transport wine. Similarly, systems, structures, and routines do not typically have significant intrinsic value. They exist to help accomplish a purpose. Are there any important systems or routines that you think need to be changed in your life? Explain. What is keeping you from changing your routines?
4. Every wineskin had a finite capacity to store wine. Similarly, each of our lives can only contain so much. Is there anything that you feel is taking up too much space in your life right now? Explain.
5. Ideally, the wine coming out of a wineskin would taste like wine, and not like the wineskin. What are some ways you think your life is reflecting God's character? Explain. What is one area of your character in which you would like to see growth?

**Pray**