

The Call to Mission 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. Can you remember a time in your life when you had a strong sense of purpose? What did that feel like?
2. Have you ever played a team sport? If so, which one? What was your position on the team, and how did that position relate to the overall goal of the sport?

Read the following passages: Matthew 22:34-39; Matthew 28:16-20.

The call to follow Jesus is a call to join him in going where he is going, and in doing what he is doing — *his mission*. We see in the Gospels that the mission of Jesus was fueled by love and it was costly. He called his followers to “take up [their] cross and follow...” (Luke 9:23). Within the span of a few decades, what had started as a fringe movement within Judaism had spread all over the Mediterranean world, as followers of Jesus took up his mission to “go and make disciples of all nations.” In our own time, we too are called to join Jesus in his mission.

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

1. When you hear talk about “joining Jesus in his mission,” how does that make you feel? Excited, overwhelmed, something else? According to Acts 1:4-8, how can the Holy Spirit help us with this mission?
2. Read Acts 6:1-7. What need arose in the early church? How did Stephen and others rise to meet this need? What qualifications are mentioned in this text regarding Stephen’s preparedness for meeting this need?
3. In the message on Sunday, we were challenged to “get off the bench and get in the game.” Are you actively involved in God’s mission? If so, how? If not, why not?
4. Read Luke 5:17-26. What did the men described in this story do to help the paralyzed man? What are some ways we can “carry the mat” of someone around us, bringing them to Jesus?
5. Can you think of a time when someone else helped you grow in your faith? Share that story.

6. According to Luke 9:23, sacrifice is inseparable from authentic Christian discipleship. What is the role of love and joy within sacrifice?

Pray