

Commit to a Group 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. Describe one of your earliest friendships.
2. Do you find it easy to connect with new people? Explain.

Read the following passage: Mark 1:14-20.

Jesus' mission centered on the kingdom of God. For many of Jesus' contemporaries, this meant a violent revolution and a fresh focus on the Law of Moses. But for Jesus this meant a new covenant, the forgiveness of sins, good news for the poor, the healing of bodies, the defeat of evil, justice for the oppressed, the gathering of the nations, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the presence of God. This was a sweeping vision! How did Jesus intend to accomplish this mission? Mark tells us that Jesus began by gathering a small group of men. Gathering together with a small group of other believers is one of the best ways to grow in our faith and walk out God's mission for our lives.

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

1. Are there people you see on a regular basis that really know you? Explain. Do you ever struggle with loneliness? Are there circumstances that seem to make you more prone to "hide" from others? Explain.
2. Read 1 Corinthians 12:21-26. What should the attitude of followers of Jesus be toward relationships with other believers?
3. When a great demonstration of God's power did not lead to spiritual renewal in Israel, but instead put his life at risk, Elijah became disillusioned and ran away from everything (1 Kings 19:1-18). Have you ever done, or felt like doing, something similar? How do we know the difference between taking some healthy time to ourselves and running away from relationships and responsibility?
4. Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. What are some of the benefits of walking with other people?
5. Describe a time when you moved beyond what was comfortable and took a risk for God. Have you taken any "faith risks" recently? Explain. How can our brothers and sisters help us take risks for God's kingdom? Name one or two uncomfortable or "risky" steps you think God wants you to take in this season.
6. What can you do to help your small group grow in size, faith, depth, or relational connection?

7. Name one or two people you can encourage to join a small group.

Pray