

Recipients and Participants 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. Have you ever been part of a team, group, band, or organization that you really enjoyed? Explain.
2. Do you like to cook for others? Explain.

Read the following passages: Luke 9:1-6.

We need each other. To live in wholeness and to accomplish the mission that God has given to us, we need to walk in life-giving, interdependent relationships. God has called us to be both recipients and participants.

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

1. Read Hebrews 10:24-25; Galatians 6:2; James 5:16; Romans 12:15. What are some practical ways God calls us to serve each other? Are you putting any of these into practice in your own life? Explain.
2. The apostle Paul often uses the metaphor of a human body to describe the people of God. (See, for example, Romans 12:3-8.) Like the diverse parts of a body, we each have different gifts that we can use to serve others and advance God's purposes. What are some gifts that you feel that you possess? How can we grow in our gifts?
3. In general, are you comfortable receiving encouragement and help from others? Explain.
4. Do you have anybody in your life who would "carry your mat" (Luke 5:18) if you were in trouble? Explain.
5. It can often be difficult to help or serve someone else when we feel overwhelmed with our own needs. How can we overcome the temptation to pull into ourselves and instead choose to serve others?
6. In Acts 16:25, Luke specifically mentions that Paul and Silas were singing and praying in prison and that the other prisoners were listening to them. How do you think Paul's and Silas' praise and devotion impacted the other prisoners? How might our praise and devotion impact those around us?
7. What is one way you think God is challenging you to take a step of faith in order to participate in somebody else's story?

8. Are you currently serving on a volunteer team at Freedom Church?

Pray