

Small Beginnings 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. In general, do you like to keep things the same or switch things up?
2. What is something interesting you have learned this year?

Read the following passage: Read Luke 13:18-21.

Jewish men and women in the first century were living with the hope that the dynamic, life-giving reign of God would break into human history in a fresh way through the arrival of an anointed king in the line of David. They expected the arrival of God's kingdom to be immediate, dramatic, political, and revolutionary. But, as Jesus indicates in this passage, the kingdom arrived much more like a mustard seed. And because it was small, many people missed it. We, too, often overlook God's activity in and around our lives because it begins much smaller than we expect.

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

1. Do you have any regular habits that positively affect your life, marriage, or family? Explain.
2. Jesus embraced several key practices that significantly shaped his life and ministry. Three such practices were the following:
 - Worshiping at the synagogue on the Sabbath (Luke 4:16)
 - Private prayer (Luke 5:16)
 - Eating meals with other people (Luke 7:34-35).

How did these practices affect Jesus' life and ministry? How might similar habits practically affect our lives?

3. Read Matthew 17:14-20. How would you define faith? Why can even small faith make a big difference? How strong is your faith at this season in your life? Explain. What can we do to grow in faith?
4. In Luke 16:10, Jesus indicates that if we are trustworthy with little, then we will be trustworthy with much. What does it look like to be trustworthy with respect to the priorities of God's kingdom and mission when we have little? Should we empty out our bank accounts to support a church, non-profit organization, or person in need? How do we decide how to direct our resources?
5. Read Ephesians 4:16. The church (described here using the metaphor of a human body) is built up when many different parts engage in many different activities. What are some small things we can do on Sundays or throughout the week to help build

the church?

6. Listed below are Freedom Church's six core practices of discipleship. Which of these do you need to start, or possibly re-start? Which do you need to do more consistently?

- Attend Sunday services
- Read the Bible and pray every day
- Commit to a small group
- Serve on a volunteer team
- Pray daily for three people who are not yet following Jesus
- Give a percentage of your income to the church

Pray