

Disciples... have a biblical foundation.

Matthew 4

Getting Started

- Take a few minutes to review the guidelines and the covenants.
- Talk about a time when your life changed. How did you feel about it before and after?
- How would you define what it is to be a disciple of Jesus?

Read Matthew 4:18-20

And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.

¹⁹ *Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”* ²⁰ *They immediately left their nets and followed Him. (NKJV)*

- How do these verses describe Simon and Andrew? How might these things impact how they could respond to Jesus?
- What would following Jesus cost them materially and otherwise?
- As in verse 19, a disciple is one who follows Jesus, is changed by Jesus and on the mission of Jesus. How do we see this in Peter and Andrew's lives?

Moving Forward

- How might you describe yourself? How could those things impact how you might respond to Jesus?
- Do you consider yourself to be a disciple of Jesus? Why or why not?
- How does the Bible inform your understanding of what it means to be a disciple and/or to live by faith?



COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDELINES

Confidentiality

Keeping things that are shared in the group confidential builds trust and shows value to the person. Confidentiality can prevent gossip that only values the story; Jesus always valued the person above their story or their sin.

Don't Rescue & Don't Fix

When someone is sharing something deeply personal and/or painful there can be a tendency to try and make them feel better about themselves or the situation. Often this will cause people to stop sharing and results in their not going as deep as they might have gone. Resist the temptation to rescue people. Try to hear what people are sharing without trying to fix them. If they want your advice, they will ask for it. You may want to take time later to ask if you can offer some advice.

No Crosstalk

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. Don't have side conversations. Trust is built in the moments when everyone feels like they are being listened to and heard by the entire group. Treat others in the group as you would want to be treated.

Use Humor Responsibly

Fun is an essential part of Small Groups; however, when meeting in the Biblical Storytelling time keep sarcastic comments, jokes and laughter to a minimum to allow for an atmosphere of authenticity and vulnerability.

Give Everyone a Chance to Share

Be sensitive to the amount of time you share. Encourage everyone to participate in group discussions.

Use "I" Statements

During small group, we want to hear your personal thoughts and perspectives. Using "I" statements to answer discussion questions allows you to speak for yourself rather than generalizing by using terms such as "them", "the church", "us" or "we".

Fight for Relationship

Relationships reaches a whole new level when conflict is resolved in a healthy manner. When conflict or sin issues arise between group members, commit to fight for the relationship and discuss the struggle with the person you are in conflict with or seek wise advice.