

Small Group Study

Community & Friendship

From the sermon series, "Making Disciples of Jesus"

AGENDA

- Allow people to arrive, talk, and snack – 10 min.
- Open in prayer – 30 sec.
- Thank everyone for coming. Go around in a circle (starting with the leader) and have everyone answer one of the icebreaker questions. – 15-20 min.
- Show DVD – 8 minutes
- Discussion – 30-45 minutes
- Prayer – 15-20 minutes
- Hang out and eat snacks – 15 minutes

DISCUSSION

1. Read Mark 2:12. What observations can you make about this story?
2. Have you ever had the same sense of urgency in wanting to bring someone to Jesus? Tell us about it.
3. Read John 2:1-11. Who does Jesus spend time with in this passage?
4. How does this story change your image of Jesus?
5. In this passage, we see Jesus hanging out with friends and enjoying a wedding celebration. And His first miracle, according to John, was turning water into wine. We don't think of Jesus that way, as the source of the wine that makes a good party even better. Certainly Jesus was doing more than having fun with friends. His turning water into wine was a sign of a bigger truth about who He was. But it all started with hanging out at a party. If Jesus can witness through doing what he enjoys, we can too.

What do you love to do during your free time? Do you like to spend time 1) engaging in activities, such as reading, computers, singing, hunting, or playing a sport? 2) attending events such as movies, sports, concerts, or card games? 3) discussing issues, such as foreign affairs, public policy, fashion, or relationships?
6. Who do you know that is interested in these same activities? If you don't know anyone who shares your interests, how might you go about meeting people who do?
7. One helpful exercise is to turn on your cell phone and note the names of people that you regularly call who don't know Jesus yet. What do you love to do that you could do with them? Who else could you reach out to that ought to be on your cell phone and isn't? (If you don't have a cell phone, think of the people with whom you have regular contact.)

Icebreakers

Use the questions below to help people open up and to focus your meeting. It is very helpful to go around in a circle with the leader going first. (Remember if you have new members or guests you should take time to introduce everyone.)

1. In a crisis, even at 3 a.m., which 1 to 3 friends would you call?
2. Tell us about a good friend you had when you were growing up. What did you like about him/her? What did you like to do together?
3. What are some of the groups, clubs, or organizations you have belonged to in your life?



8. What new interests or activities might you want to develop, and how could you pursue those interests? How could that interest or activity help you connect with people who don't follow Jesus?
9. You may respond, "I don't have any free time." What needs to change in your schedule so that you can spend more time doing things with people who don't follow Jesus? How could you integrate those friends into the things you are already doing?
10. In pairs, share what changes you will make so that you can spend more time enjoying life with people who don't follow Jesus. If you are already building those relationships, what are the next steps you can take?

ACTION ITEMS

1. Continue to pray for the people on your list.
2. Consider doing something together as a group to which you can invite the people you know who don't follow Jesus.

PRAYER

Lift up prayer requests together as a group. Pray also for some of the names on your lists.

CLOSING COMMENTS

This is the final week for this study. I pray you and your group were blessed by it.

Signups for our spring groups will begin January 14th and groups will begin the week of February 6th. We will be doing another church-wide sermon series & study. More info to come!

In the meantime, feel free to invite your friends, relatives, work associates, and neighbors to our grand opening Christmas eve services! Here are some upcoming dates:

December 10/11: First weekend in new auditorium - "soft" opening (New north campus service times: Sat: 5pm, Sun: 9:15am, 11am, 5pm)

December 17/18: Regular service + building dedication

Grand Opening Christmas services: Fri, Dec 23 @ 7pm (Children's Service), Sat, Dec 24 @ 3, 4:45, 6:30, 8:15pm, Sun Dec 25 @ 11am (no Brighton campus service on 12/25)

God bless you as you continue to follow Jesus!

Sincerely,

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