



GROUP



GUIDES

GROUP GUIDES

WEEK 1 | ALIVE

ICEBREAKER

What's one of the most selfless things anyone has ever done for you? What impact did their actions have on you? How did it make you feel?

INTRODUCTION

JESUS CAME TO _____ AND _____ THE LOST.

PHILIPPIANS 1:27-28

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then...I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you.

The story of Zacchaeus compels us to ask ourselves three important questions:

1. *Am I _____ to let Christ touch _____ area of my life?*
2. *Am I _____ for ways to _____ those without Christ?*
3. *Am I _____ a life of _____ purpose?*

Q1 AM I WILLING TO LET CHRIST TOUCH EVERY AREA OF MY LIFE?

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-4 Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 1) Which of the characteristics in this passage stands out to you the most? Why?
- 2) Are there any areas of your life you need to "die to" in order for attitude to be more like Christ?
- 3) When is it difficult for you to put someone else's interests first?
- 4) How could acting according to this verse be a witness of Christ's love to others?



AM I LOOKING FOR WAYS TO ENGAGE THOSE WITHOUT CHRIST?

JOHN 4:4-18, 25-26, 28-30, 39-42

Now he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

"Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

"I have no husband," she replied.

Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

...

The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."

...

Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

...

Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. And because of his words many more became believers.

They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 1) What is unusual about the way Jesus strikes up a conversation with the woman at the well?
- 2) Why do you think Jesus asks her for a drink?
- 3) How did Jesus demonstrate that He cared for this Samaritan woman? How deeply did He care and how do you know?

- 4) After the Samaritan woman realizes who Jesus is, what does she do in verse 28-30? What was the result of her actions (verse 39)?
- 5) What are some apprehensions or concerns you have about witnessing to or sharing with a non-Christian?

There is no one right way to engage in conversation with those who are without Christ; however, the best way to start is with prayer and developing a personal relationship. For starters, we can:

_____ **for an opportunity to** _____ **Christ's love with others.**

COLOSSIANS 4:2-4 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 1) What two key things does Paul ask the Colossians to pray for in this passage?

Offer _____.

ROMANS 12:13 Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

COLOSSIANS 3:12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 1) What are some other examples of how you can show hospitality to reflect Jesus' love?

When someone begins to ask questions and shows signs of sincere interest in knowing more about God, it's time for the next step. This could be an invite to come to church service on Sunday morning or to attend a Bible study. It could be giving them a Christian book to read or asking them if they want to read and discuss one of the four gospels. Many people say that if they were asked to engage in some kind of Christian activity that they would.

ACTS 8:30-31 Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 1) Have you ever invited a non-Christian friend or neighbor to a church activity or service? If so, share what happened.



3 AM I LIVING A LIFE OF RADICAL PURPOSE?

We live a radical life when it _____ from the _____ and _____ of the world.

In his book, Tony Merida states, “Most gospel ministry involves _____ people doing _____ things with gospel intentionality.”

MATTHEW 5:14-16 You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 1) As “the light of the world,” how should we be living our lives?
- 2) What changes do you need to make in order to live a life of radical purpose?

WRAP UP

God wants us to live a life that is genuinely alive--living in Christ. To accomplish this, we must “conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ”

Jesus came to seek and save the lost. When we are truly alive in Christ, we:

WILL be looking for ways to engage others who do not know Christ.

WILL be letting Christ touch every area of our lives.

WILL be living a life of radical purpose—living for the King, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK

- 1) How is Christ reflected in your life? How can others tell that you are alive in Christ?
- 2) Who has God put on your heart to pray for and reach out to hear the gospel?

GROUP GUIDES

WEEK 2 | FILLED

ICEBREAKER

Are you an outgoing, social person or a quiet, reserved, and thoughtful person?

INTRODUCTION

JESUS CAME TO _____ AND _____ THE LOST.

PHILIPPIANS 1:27-28

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then...I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you.

ACTS 2:2-4 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Q1 IS THE HOLY SPIRIT ALIVE IN ME?

EPHESIANS 1:13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.

ROMANS 5:1-5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 1) What does it mean to you that the Holy Spirit is a seal (Ephesians 1:13)?
- 2) What gets poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit?
- 3) If God's love is poured into me, what would be the evidence that the Spirit is in me?

Q2

AM I BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT?

EPHESIANS 5:15-19 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 1) If I have the Holy Spirit inside of me as a believer, then what does "be filled" mean?
- 2) What am I doing on a daily basis to be refilled by the Holy Spirit?
- 3) Share a time when you felt like you were filled with the Holy Spirit.

THE _____ OF THE SPIRIT LEADS US TO _____ THE
GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST.

Q3

IS THE GOSPEL STILL 'GOOD NEWS' TO ME?

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 1) What is the "good news" of the Gospel?
- 2) What is the most amazing thing to you about the good news?
- 3) Share a short version of when you began your relationship with Jesus.

Q4 AM I SPEAKING BOLDLY?

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 1) How many non-believing friends do you spend a significant amount of time with?
- 2) What are some challenges that we face when we spend time with non-believing friends?
- 3) Does being filled with the Spirit give you confidence to share the good news of the Kingdom?

WRAP UP

ICEBREAKER

Describe a time or situation where you felt united with others for a common goal? What was the result and how did it make you feel?

INTRODUCTION

JESUS CAME TO _____ AND _____ THE LOST.

PHILIPPIANS 1:27-28

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then...I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you.

ACTS 2:42-47 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

1. They were _____ to the _____ teaching.

2. They were _____ to _____.

3. They _____ themselves to the _____ and _____.



THEY WERE DEVOTED TO THE APOSTLES TEACHING. AM I?

WHEN WE ARE DEVOTED TO LEARNING GOD'S WORD, WE ARE UNITED IN _____.

EPHESIANS 4:11-15 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 1) According to this passage, what is the result of unity in God's Truth?

KNOWING TRUTH PROMOTES _____.

JOHN 17:17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 1) Can the church have unity and still disagree on doctrine?
- 2) How can disagreements about God's Word damage the church?



THEY WERE DEVOTED TO FELLOWSHIP. AM I?

WHEN WE ARE DEVOTED TO FELLOWSHIP, WE ARE UNITED WITH _____.

- Fellowship provides _____ of our faith.

JOHN 17:23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1) In this verse, why does Jesus pray for unity?

- Fellowship provides _____.

JOHN 1:3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

- Fellowship promotes _____.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7-8; 12-14 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you.

- Fellowship also requires _____.

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-5 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1) Give an example of how your commitment to fellowship can help unify Fellowship of the Rockies?

THEY DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO THE BREAKING OF BREAD AND PRAYER. WILL I?

WHEN WE ARE DEVOTED TO THE BREAKING OF BREAD AND PRAYER, WE ARE UNITED _____.

MATTHEW 26:26-28 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

1 CORINTHIANS 11:24 And when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."

1 CORINTHIANS 11:26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:16-17 Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1) According to the previous verses, why do we take communion?

ROMANS 12:12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

COLOSSIANS 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

WE ARE TO _____ OURSELVES TO _____.

■ **Prayer is a _____.**

MATTHEW 5:44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

MARK 14:38 Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

■ **Prayer allows us to express** _____.

1 CHRONICLES 16:34 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

PSALM 9:1 I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

■ **Prayer provides a platform to** _____.

PSALM 32:5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

■ **Prayer is an act of** _____ **and** _____.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18 Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

■ **Prayer has** _____.

1 KINGS 18:36-38 At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again."

Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1) Why is prayer important?

2) Do you make prayer a daily habit, or only when it's urgent?

WRAP UP

PSALM 133:1 How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK

- 1) How am I actively pursuing God's Truth and fellowship with His people?
- 2) Do my actions and speech help to unify the church or divide it? In prayer, ask God for ways to strengthen the unity of the church.

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

WEEK 4 | FAITH

This study on faith is designed to be a five-day devotional for the entire family. We will begin with the Philippians verse we have been walking through in church over the past three weeks. We will then read a scripture from the Mark's gospel and address the three questions that were asked in the sermon on this topic. Our FOR leadership prayer for you and your family is that this devotional will increase your faith and draw you closer to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

DAY ONE FAITH OF THE GOSPEL

JESUS CAME TO _____ AND _____ THE LOST.

The key truth for our "ONE" study series is that Jesus came to seek and save the lost. Christ lives in and works through the church body to meet the needs of His people and to save the lost.

PHILIPPIANS 1:27-28

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then...I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you.

Our faith is directed specifically towards the gospel. The word gospel literally means good news. What is the good news? The good news is this - Jesus Christ left heaven and came to earth, he lived a sinless life, he died on a Roman cross for our sins, he was buried in the tomb and three days later came back to life, he ascended to heaven and all who believe in him can have eternal life. Jesus Christ did for us what we could never do for ourselves he paid the price for our sins. That's why God says our faith needs to be directed towards the gospel.

Let's read the story in the gospel of Mark showing the great faith of five friends.

MARK 2:1-12

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they

could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

■ ***What do you think these five men knew about Jesus?***

AM I LIKE THE PARALYTIC MAN WHO NEEDED JESUS?

What are some characteristics of the paralyzed man?

1) He was a sinner.

Jesus told the paralytic that his sins were forgiven. This indicates that the paralytic must have been a sinner. He needed Jesus not to just heal him physically but to cleanse him of his sins. How are we like him when it comes to sin?

ROMANS 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

All of us are sinners and in need of a Savior.

2) He had faith.

Mark writes that Jesus saw their faith and he told the paralytic that his sins were forgiven.

ROMANS 3:24-25a And are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.

We receive forgiveness by faith in Jesus Christ. We are justified by His grace and it is a free gift.

3) He had friends that had faith.

Mark says that Jesus saw "their faith":

MATTHEW 18:19-20 Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.

Sometimes we may need our friends that have great faith, to lead us to the Savior. There is great value in having friends that have faith in Jesus.

Do you share any of these characteristics with the paralyzed man?

- ***Have you ever had a time when your faith was weak and you needed friends to “carry” you to Jesus?***

We all need to have friends like that in our lives. That is why at FOR we want to do Life Change Together.

DO I NEED TO BE MORE LIKE THE FRIENDS WHO WERE INNOVATIVE, BOLD, AND CREATIVE ABOUT LEADING PEOPLE TO JESUS?

In today's culture, do we need new ways to lead people to Jesus? Let's look at a passage from Hebrews.

HEBREWS 13:7-8 Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

- *How would these verses apply to us today?*
- *What do these verses say about Jesus?*

1 CORINTHIANS 9:19-23 Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

- *What is Paul saying about how to reach people in these verses?*
- *How would you apply Paul's teaching to your witnessing for Jesus?*

DO I NEED A HEART CHANGE TO STOP BEING LIKE THE RELIGIOUS ELITE WHO WERE SKEPTICAL AND CRITICAL?

David, a man after God's heart, says this in Psalm 51:

PSALM 51:10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

- *What does a pure heart look like to you?*
- *Are there areas of your life where you are unnecessarily critical of others?*

Remember what Jesus says about being a critical person...

MATTHEW 7:1-5 Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, "Let me take the speck out of your eye," when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

- *What do these verses say about being critical of others?*

MATTHEW 9:13 But go and learn what this means: "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.

- *What is the definition of mercy?*
- *What does "I desire mercy, not sacrifice" mean to you?*

DID JESUS EVER COMMEND ANYONE FOR HAVING GREAT FAITH?

Let's look at two passages from the Gospel of Matthew:

MATTHEW 8:5-10 When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly."

Jesus said to him, "Shall I come and heal him?"

The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith."

■ *What made the centurion's faith so great?*

MATTHEW 15:22-28 A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly!"

Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us."

He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."

The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said.

He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."

"Yes it is, Lord," she said. "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table."

Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed at that moment.

- *What made the woman's faith so great?*
- *Do you believe you have great faith? If not, how do you build your faith?*
- *What evidence is there in your life that you have faith?*

WEEK 5 | COURAGEOUS

ICEBREAKER

Who is the most courageous person you know or have heard of and why do you consider that person courageous?

INTRODUCTION

JESUS CAME TO _____ AND _____ THE LOST.

PHILIPPIANS 1:27-28

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then...I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you.

**SOME PEOPLE HEAR THE STORY OF CHRIST AND ARE _____
TRANSFORMED, AND OTHERS ARE _____.**

COURAGE IS DRIVEN BY _____, NOT THE CROWD.

If we want to live a life of courage, then we must ask ourselves three important questions:

1. Do I _____ in Christ?
2. Will I _____ problems and persecution to derail me?
3. How do I _____ a life of courage?

Q1

DO I BELIEVE IN CHRIST?

BOTH BELIEF AND NON-BELIEF ARE A COMBINATION OF THE SAME THREE THINGS: _____, _____, **AND** _____.

ROMANS 10:9-10 If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

EPHESIANS 4:22-24 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

LET’S TALK ABOUT IT

- 1) According to these two verses, what are some characteristics of someone who is truly saved — a believer?

JAMES 2:18-19 But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

LET’S TALK ABOUT IT

- 1) How does James say we demonstrate our faith?
- 2) Share an example of someone acting out their faith.

Q2

THEY WERE DEVOTED TO FELLOWSHIP. AM I?

JAMES 1:2-4 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

JAMES 1:12 Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1) Why should we consider going through trials a blessing?

EPHESIANS 6:13-17 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

PHILIPPIANS 4:13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1) Do you find any comfort in these verses? If so, why?



HOW DO I LIVE A LIFE OF COURAGE?

DEUTERONOMY 31:6 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.

JOHN 15:12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

ROMANS 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

COLOSSIANS 3:13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 1) How can forgiving someone be an act of courage? Give an example and describe the outcome.

MICAH 6:8 He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 1) Think of a time when someone showed you grace and not a critical spirit. How did it make you feel?
- 2) What do you think it means to “walk humbly with your God”?

PHILIPPIANS 4:8-9 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 1) What does this verse say we should think about and what do we need to put into action?
- 2) How does living this verse out in our lives require courage?

WRAP UP

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK

- 1) How am I dealing with the problems or challenges in my life? Are they causing me to drift away from God or draw closer to Him? What example am I setting for others?
- 2) What's one change you can make in your life so you can live a more courageous life in Christ?

EXERCISE AND REFLECTION

List out the **financial commitments you currently have**—those that go beyond a one-time payment but that do have a time duration to them. Examples would be a home mortgage, a lease agreement, a car loan, a cell phone contract, your child's tuition for school, your own tuition for school, etc.

Now write out **the commitment you are planning to make for the ONE initiative**. Where does it fall in the priority of these other commitments? Do you need to change or modify one or more of these other commitments in order to be able to fulfill your **ONE** commitment? What if you wanted to raise your **ONE** commitment? What would that require? Is there a financial commitment you currently have that appears to be prioritized above your ability to make a truly surrendered giving commitment to help move God's mission forward and jump in to advance the Kingdom?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

If someone who didn't know you looked at your financial commitments, **what would they say you value?**

Would that statement be true about you? Or is there something that needs to be modified?

If you keep this commitment over the next two years, what type of **spiritual growth** can you see happening in you?

How will you leverage this change to influence others to live their lives more closely with Jesus and express more love such as your children, your co-workers, your friends, your

PRAYER

Pray over your commitment as you prepare to surrender your card on Commitment Weekend. Prayer is the most important thing in this whole process, and prayer is what gives us the heart of Jesus within us. Now let's do this, FOR family! Let's come together as **ONE** to move the Kingdom forward!

GROUP GUIDES

WEEK 6 | COMMITTED

ICEBREAKER

What comes to mind when you think of the word committed?

Describe a time when you kept a commitment long term and saw a positive result.

INTRODUCTION

JESUS CAME TO _____ AND _____ THE LOST.

PHILIPPIANS 1:27-28

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then...I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you.

1. What do I _____ that I can commit to Christ?
2. Am I willing to make a commitment _____ ?
3. Am I willing to make a commitment _____ ?



WHAT DO I HAVE THAT I CAN COMMIT TO CHRIST?

DEUTERONOMY 10:14 To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it.

PSALM 50:12 If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it.

COLOSSIANS 1:16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 1) According to the verses above, what belongs to God?
- 2) How does this knowledge that you are a steward and don't actually own anything make you feel?

■ Give _____.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-7 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 1) How do you feel about the principle of sowing and reaping?

■ Give _____.

1 CHRONICLES 29:14 But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 1) What does it mean to give humbly?

■ Give _____.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:12 For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.

MARK 12:43-44 Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 1) Some people have never made a commitment to give. How do these verses change your perspective on giving to God?



AM I WILLING TO MAKE A COMMITMENT NO MATTER WHAT?

GALATIANS 1:10 Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

COLOSSIANS 3:17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 1) According to these verses, who should we aim to please?
- 2) In whose name should we accomplish our deeds?

HEBREWS 11:7-12

By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

HEBREWS 11:24-31

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He

regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.

By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days.

By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 1) How did the various people from this chapter demonstrate their commitment to God's call on their lives? Note several, and be specific.
- 2) Can you think of any characters not listed in Hebrews 11 that made a commitment 'no matter what'?



AM I WILLING TO MAKE A COMMITMENT FOR ETERNITY?

GALATIANS 6:8-10 Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 1) What is sowing to please the flesh?
- 2) What is sowing to please the Spirit?
- 3) What are some things we can do to sow in the Spirit?

2 TIMOTHY 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 1) What is the "good fight" in your life?
- 2) How are you keeping the faith?
- 3) How do the phrases "good fight" and "keeping the faith" relate to ONE?

WRAP UP

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

- 1) What are some different ways that you can help Fellowship of the Rockies make an impact on eternity?