



# fixer upper

# **fixer upper**

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Published by Van Dyke Church, Lutz, Florida 33558

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Printed in the United States of America.

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# welcome

Do you ever feel like your life is in need of some renovation? Sometimes it feels like all you need is a coat of fresh paint. Other times you are desperate for a total rebuild from top to bottom! Wherever you are on the spectrum, welcome to the club. We're all "fixer uppers."

Over the next six weeks I invite you to dive deeply into this series and experience a fresh renewal from the hands of the master carpenter - Jesus Christ. You will hear some fascinating stories about people who needed renovation. And you will see how Jesus provided grace, hope, and truth to infuse new life and purpose into their souls.

Throughout the weeks of this study I encourage you to be open to the work of God in your life. When Jesus renovates and remodels your life, you will enjoy new value and purpose everyday. Jesus always meets you right where you are, but He loves you so much He will never leave you there.

Thank you for making a wise investment of your time and energy. We're in this together, and I have been praying that everyone who dives into this study will have positive and powerful encounters with Jesus' love.

**Matthew Hartsfield**

Lead Pastor at Van Dyke Church



OK, I have a confession to make: I'm not handy. My wife learned this early on in our marriage when she had to install the ice-maker in our new refrigerator. When I want to complete a project around the house, I usually have to recruit someone to help and I'm blessed to have friends to help me with these projects!

During the next six weeks, you have the opportunity to work with the ultimate fixer upper - Jesus! He's our soul's handyman and His workmanship is flawless.

But here's the deal. In the same way I'm not great at doing home projects by myself, none of us are equipped to fix up our spiritual lives alone. Jesus commands us to live in community with others because none of us have all the skills to renovate and remodel our lives on our own.

We absolutely need other people to come alongside us to help in areas of weakness. And in the same way, there are people that need you to come along side them! My challenge to you over the next six weeks is to commit to your group. If you do, I believe you will see God transform lives in your group. Let's get to work!

### **David Wildes**

Director of GroupLIFE at Van Dyke Church

## — Series — **introduction**

Fixer Upper is an encounter with six people who were in need of a life renovation. Some of these people were in complete disrepair and realized their need for renovation. Others were living normal lives, but they were living below their potential. No matter where they began, they were amazed by the renovation and new high-value life Jesus offered them.

We will discover how Jesus connected with these people, renovated them, and gave their lives new hope, high value, and eternal impact. We will experience for ourselves a special connection with Jesus that will lead to powerful renovations in our own lives. Jesus, as always, meets us right where we are, but He loves us so much He won't leave us there.

# ———— **Using this workbook** ————

(Tools to Help You Have a Great Small Group Experience!)

This study guide contains two sections: Sessions and Appendix. Familiarize yourself with the Appendix. Some of this material will be used in the sessions themselves.

If you are facilitating/hosting or co-hosting a small group, the Appendix will give you some hard-learned advice that will encourage you and help you avoid many common obstacles to effective small group leadership.

Use this workbook as a guide, not a straitjacket. If the group responds to the lesson in an unexpected but honest way, go with that. If you think of a better question than the next one in the lesson, ask it. Take to heart the insights included in the Frequently Asked Questions pages and other helpful information in the Appendix.

Pray before each session—for your group members, for your time together, for wisdom and insights.

Read the Outline for Each Session on the next pages so that you understand how the sessions will flow.

Enjoy your small group experience and have fun together.

# Outline for \_\_\_\_\_ each Session

We know there is more content in each week's session than most groups can go through. That gives you, the group host, flexibility to customize the sessions for your group's personality. If your group doesn't like to do homework, then omit the Digging Deeper section. If your group is short on time, you might choose 2-3 discussion questions each week rather than attempt to discuss all of the questions offered. This study guide is a tool to help you facilitate your group. Use what you need.

## **Introduction**

Each lesson opens with a brief thought that will help you prepare for the session and get you thinking about the particular subject you will explore with your group. Make it a practice to read these before the session. You may want to have the group read them aloud.

## **Begin the Story**

The foundation for spiritual growth is an intimate connection with God and His family. You build that connection by sharing your story with a few people who really know you and who earn your trust. This section includes some simple questions to get you talking—letting you share as much or as little of your story as you feel comfortable doing.

## **God's Story**

In this section, you'll read the Bible and listen to teaching, in order to hear God's story—and begin to see how His story aligns with yours. When the study directs you to, you'll pop in the DVD and watch a short teaching segment. You'll then have an opportunity to read a passage of Scripture, and discuss both



the teaching and the text, focusing on how you should live in light of the Word of God. We want to help you apply the insights from Scripture practically and creatively, from your heart as well as your head. At the end of the day, allowing the timeless truths from God's Word to transform our lives in Christ should be your greatest aim.

## **Your Story**

God wants you to be a part of His Kingdom—to weave your story into His. That will mean change. It will require you to go His way rather than your own. This won't happen overnight, but it should happen steadily. By making small, simple choices, we can begin to change our direction. This is where the Bible's instructions to "be doers of the Word, not just hearers" (James 1:22) comes into play. Many people skip over this aspect of the Christian life because it's scary, relationally awkward, or simply too much work for their busy schedules. But Jesus wanted all of His disciples to know Him personally, carry out His commands, and help outsiders connect with Him. This doesn't necessarily mean preaching on street corners. It could mean welcoming newcomers, hosting a short-term group in your home, or walking through this study with a friend. In this study, you'll have an opportunity to go beyond Bible study to biblical living.

## **Digging Deeper**

If you have time and want to dig deeper into more Bible passages about the topic at hand, we've provided additional passages and questions, which you can use either during the meeting, or as homework. Your group may choose to read and prepare before each meeting in order to cover more biblical material. Or, group members can use the additional study section during the week after the meeting. If you prefer not to do study homework, this section will provide you with plenty to discuss within the group. These options allow individuals or the whole group to expand their study while still accommodating those who can't do homework or are new to your group.



The background is a dark gray grid filled with white line-art icons of various tools and household items. The icons include wrenches, screwdrivers, paint cans, brushes, hammers, saws, drills, light bulbs, and sinks, arranged in a repeating pattern.

**Session One:**

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**Stinky to Stellar**

### **Introduction**

Peter, along with his brother, Andrew, was a commercial fisherman. The brothers were relatively uneducated, blue collar workers. Peter had a normal, average life.

You and I wouldn't have given him a second look or a second thought. And if we were tasked with building a dream team of people to radically redirect history, defeat the powers of sin and death, and dramatically transform humanity, Peter would not even make our long list of candidates, let alone our short list!

However, Jesus doesn't view people the same way you and I do. Jesus sees potential and promise way beyond what we are capable of seeing through our limited human perspective.

### **Begin the Story**

Each of us has a story. The events of our lives—good, bad, wonderful, or challenging—have shaped who we are. God knows your story, and He intends to redeem it—to use every struggle and every joy to ultimately bring you to Himself. When we share our stories with others, we give them the opportunity to see God at work.

When we share our stories, we also realize we are not alone—that we have common experiences and thoughts, and that others can understand what we are going through. Your story can encourage someone else. And telling it can lead to a path of freedom for you and for those you share it with.

Before you start this first meeting, get contact information for every participant. Take time to pass around a copy of the Small Group Roster in the Appendix, a sheet of paper, or one of you pass your study guide, opened to the Small Group Roster. Ask someone to make copies or type up a list with everyone's information and email it to the group during the week.

Open your group with prayer. This should be a brief, simple prayer, in which you invite God to give you insight as you study.



You can pray for specific requests at the end of the meeting, or stop momentarily to pray if a particular situation comes up during your discussion.

Begin your time together by using the following questions to get people talking. Never put anyone on the spot. Don't make them answer if they aren't comfortable.

- What brought you here?
- What do you hope to get out of this group?
- What's your usual approach to meeting new people?
  - To be honest, it's pretty scary for me.
  - I'm cautious at first, but when I feel comfortable I open up.
  - I've never really met a stranger—what do you want to know?

Whether your group is new or ongoing, it's always important to reflect on and review your values together. In the Appendix is a Small Group Agreement with the values we've found most useful in sustaining healthy, balanced groups.

We recommend that you choose one or two values described on the Small Group Agreement—ones you haven't previously focused on or have room to grow in—to emphasize during this study. Choose ones that will take your group to the next stage of intimacy and spiritual health.

If your group is new, or has newcomers, introduce everyone—you may even want to have nametags for your first meeting.

Consider rotating host homes and/or letting different hosts lead the meeting. Studies show that healthy groups rotate leadership. This helps to develop every member's ability to shepherd a few people in a safe environment. Even Jesus gave others the opportunity to serve alongside Him (Mark 6:30-44).

Look at the FAQs in the Appendix for additional information about hosting or leading the group.

The Small Group Calendar in the Appendix is a tool for planning who will host and lead each meeting. Take a few minutes to plan hosts and leaders for your remaining meetings. Don't skip this important step! It will revolutionize your group.

### Watch the DVD

Use the space provided to record key thoughts, questions, and things you want to remember or follow up on. After watching the video for Session 1, have someone read the discussion questions in the God's Story section and direct the discussion among the group.

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### God's Story

Some people think "emotion will sustain devotion"—that Christianity is a matter of moving from one spiritual high to the next, and that if you can sustain these feelings it will be easy to follow Christ.

Unfortunately, life is sometimes hard, and it's unrealistic to expect your emotions to drive your spiritual life. Instead, you need to be grounded in God's Word, in daily communication with Him in prayer, and in connection to other believers who can strengthen your faith. Life is full of mountains and valleys, but God designed us to travel the path together.



***Read Luke 5:1-11 aloud.***

- After a disappointing night of fishing, Peter was washing his nets when Jesus walked up and helped Himself to Peter's boat. What would be your response? What was Peter's?
- How do you think Peter felt when Jesus told him to push out into deeper water and let down his nets?
- Peter seemed like he was up for anything, didn't he? He welcomed Jesus into his boat and into his life. Have you welcomed Jesus into your life?
- Peter's boat represented Peter's life—his job, his finances, his identity. Is your "boat" available to Jesus?
- What would you be missing out on if your boat isn't available to Jesus?
- Jesus told Peter to go out into deeper waters to fish. Jesus wanted to be part of Peter's everyday life. Where are your deeper waters—where Jesus could be part of your everyday life?
- What is enticing about staying close to shore—having a superficial relationship with Jesus--rather than taking Him into your deeper waters? What's scary about inviting Him into your deeper waters?

- What, specifically, do you think Jesus wants from you?
- What, specifically, do you think He wants for you?
- After Peter pulled up his overflowing nets, he fell to his knees right there on the boat among the fish in a display of humility-filled worship. In that moment, Peter welcomed Jesus into his life without regard to convenience or timing. Choose Peter's response to Jesus' requests of him:

☐ I will do whatever You want.

☐ I will do what you want as long as it fits into my life.

What's your response to Jesus' requests of you?

### Your Story

In this section, talk about how you will apply the wisdom you've learned from the teaching and Bible study. Then think about practical steps you can take in the coming week to live out what you've learned.

Peter welcomed Jesus into his boat and into his life. But his wasn't the only life that was affected. Peter's partners, John and James, were invited to join Jesus, too. They were invited to fish for more than just fish—they were invited to fish for people.

- Have you accepted Jesus' call to join Him in His mission? If so, how has your life changed because of your decision?
- Does the idea of fishing for people exhilarate you or intimidate you? Why?





- Where can you place yourself in order to fish for people? What would you do there to introduce people to Jesus?
- Two entire families changed because of Peter's YES for Jesus. How has the course of your family's life changed because of one person's YES for Jesus? Was it your YES? If not, whose?

Take a look at the Circles of Life diagram below and write the names of two or three people you know who need a small group, too. Commit to praying for God's guidance and an opportunity to share with each person. Perhaps they would be open to joining your group or to start one of their own. Share your lists with the group so you can all be praying for the people you've identified.

The diagram consists of five overlapping circles arranged in a circle. Each circle has a title and a subtitle, followed by four horizontal lines for writing.

- FAMILY**  
(IMMEDIATE OR EXTENDED)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- FAMILIAR**  
(NEIGHBORS, KID'S SPORTS)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- FRIENDS**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- FUN**  
(GYM, HOBBIES, HANGOUTS)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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- FIRM**  
(WORK)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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Also consider someone—in this group or outside it—that you can begin going deeper with in an intentional way. This might be your mom or dad, a cousin, an aunt or uncle, a roommate, a college buddy, or a neighbor. Choose someone who might be open to “doing life” with you at a deeper level. Pray about that opportunity.

This week how will you interact with the Bible? Can you commit to spending time in daily prayer or study of God’s Word? Tell the group how you plan to follow Jesus this week, and then, at your next meeting, talk about your progress and challenges.

Close your meeting with prayer. Ask, “How can we pray for you this week?” Invite everyone to share, but don’t force the issue. Be sure to write prayer requests on your Prayer and Praise Report in the Appendix.

### **Digging Deeper**

Take some time between now and your next meeting to dig into God’s Word. Here are some Bible passages and questions for you to explore this week. If you like, share what you learn with the group the next time you meet.

Jesus uses what we know to teach us something we don’t know. Peter was not an exception to this. Jesus used the sea and fishing to teach Peter.

#### ***Read Matthew 14:22-33.***

- Peter was accustomed to the stormy waters of the Sea of Galilee. But what would compel him to actually get out of the boat?



- In your storms, do you get out of the boat and trust Jesus?
- What did Jesus teach Peter about trusting Him?

***Read John 21:1-19.***

- Right before Jesus was crucified, after spending three years by His side, fueled by fear of persecution, Peter denied even knowing Jesus. But we shouldn't think Peter didn't love Jesus. He truly did. During the 40 days after Jesus' resurrection, He spoke to many people. He reserved this particular morning to offer Peter restoration of their relationship. What significance did this particular sequence of events have for Peter?
- Jesus first called Peter to fish for men by using a very similar miracle (Luke 5:5-6). What call did Jesus make on Peter's life here in John 21?
- What does Jesus use to teach you?



- What have you learned?

One of Peter's most notable characteristics is his willingness to humble himself to Jesus. Some of our greatest heroes of the Bible would probably be surprised by our high estimation of them.

### ***Read Genesis 18:27-33.***

This conversation between Abraham and God concerns the destruction of the evil cities, Sodom and Gomorrah.

- Describe evidence of Abraham's humility throughout the conversation.
- Describe the evidence of Abraham's boldness throughout the conversation.
- How can both humility and boldness be present in the same person?



- So often humility is equated with weakness. How, though, is humility a sign of strength?
- When have you found yourself exercising a mixture of boldness with humility?

***Read Isaiah 6:1-8.***

- What was Isaiah's response to his vision of God?
- What was Isaiah's response to having his sins forgiven?
- What is your response God?
- What is your response to having your sins forgiven by God?

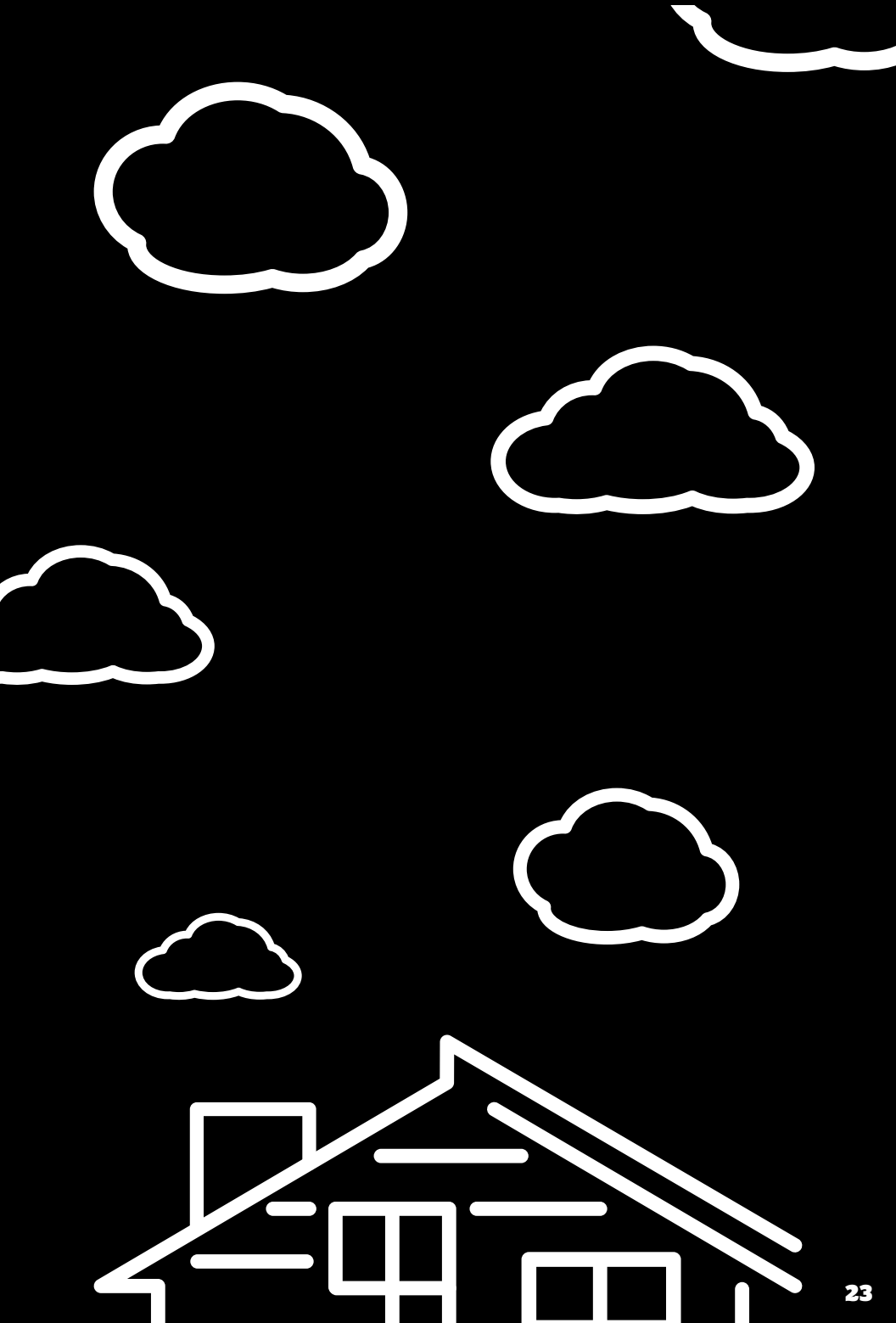
Peter spent his life following Jesus. Some days for Peter it was one step forward and two steps backward. Other days were better. But after he received the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2), he focused his passion and energy and changed the world.

### ***Read through Acts 3 and Acts 4.***

- In light of Peter and John being arrested, you'd think they would pray for protection—but they didn't. What did they pray for in Acts 4:29?
- What was granted to them in Acts 4:31?

### ***Read Acts 5:12-42.***

- After Peter and the other disciples were beaten and brought before the council, what did they do?
- How did God answer the prayers from Acts 4:29?
- What would happen if you prayed for boldness in your work for God? Will you try it?









# **Session Two:**

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# **Notorious Sinner to Notable Saint**

### Introduction

This week, we take a look at another Fixer Upper who might not appear to need much restoration and renovation.

Like Peter, his life seemed to be going along in a fairly normal manner. In fact, he was richer and more powerful than Peter. And yet, his life was hollow and empty on the inside. And for all practical purposes he was hated and shunned by his fellow Jews.

Levi was his name (we also know him as Matthew). Levi was a tax collector for the Roman Empire. He had sold out his own people by agreeing to work for the Roman occupation collecting taxes from the Jews to support the Empire.

But as we saw with Peter, Jesus doesn't look at what we see on the surface of human lives. Jesus created Levi in the image of God. And Jesus saw Levi as an amazing world-changer and history-maker that would become a powerful force for transformation.

### Begin the Story

Open your group with prayer. This should be a brief, simple prayer, in which you invite God to be with you as you meet. You can pray for specific requests at the end of the meeting, or stop momentarily to pray if a particular situation comes up during your discussion.

Sharing personal stories builds deeper connections among group members. Begin your time together by using the following questions to get people talking.

- Would anyone like to share from last week's Digging Deeper section?
- If you could transform something—your home, your bedroom, your fashion style, your car, your boat—what would you do to it?



## Watch the DVD

Watch the video for this session now. Use the space provided to record key thoughts, questions, and things you want to remember or follow up on. After you finish watching the video, have someone read the discussion questions in the God's Story section and direct the discussion among the group.

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## God's Story

How can we become part of God's story? By aligning our stories with His and understanding what it means to follow Him. Use the following questions to guide your discussion of the teaching you just experienced and the Bible passages below.

***Read Mark 2:13-17 aloud.***

- Jesus met Levi right in the middle of his life. He didn't wait until Levi shaped up his life before He called him. How do you feel about Jesus meeting you right where you are?
- Where were you when Jesus called you to follow Him?
- Prior to meeting Jesus, Levi had relationships with friends and family. What would happen to those relationships after Levi's encounter with Jesus?

- Do you have “old life” relationships? What happened to them after Jesus entered your life?
- Levi invited all of his friends over for dinner with his new friend, Jesus. How do you share Jesus with the people you know?
- Unlike the religious leaders of the day, Jesus wasn’t above hanging out with sinners. He didn’t stop being Jesus because He was with sinners. How do you change who you are depending on who you are with?
- Imagine inviting your church friends and your non-churched friends over for a party. How would it feel to have your worlds collide? How difficult would it be to be yourself in that crowd?
- When the religious leaders asked Jesus why He was eating with sinners, what did He say?

### **Your Story**

In this section, talk about how you will apply the wisdom you’ve learned in this session.

***Read aloud the parallel passage of Levi’s calling in Matthew 9:9-13. Jesus cites Hosea 6:6. Read Hosea 6:6 aloud.***

- What does God want from His people?
- How did Jesus do that at Levi’s party?



The purpose of the local church is to introduce the unchurched people in the community to Jesus. The mission of Van Dyke Church is: We connect people to a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ.

- How does Van Dyke Church fulfill this mission?
- What is your responsibility in this mission?
- How are you fulfilling your responsibility?
- Think back to when you last attended the weekend worship service: For whom is everything geared? The parking, the pews, the music, the message? If the church's mission is to the unchurched, who should these things focus on?

- Next time you're at weekend service, look at these things through a non-churched person's eyes. What will you do to focus on our intended guests rather than ourselves, the hosts?

*Close your meeting with prayer.*

### **Digging Deeper**

Take some time between now and our next meeting to dig into God's Word. Here are some Bible passages and questions for you to explore this week. If you like, share what you learn with the group the next time you meet.

Transformed lives are nothing new to Jesus. They're the whole reason He came in the first place. He came to transform lives that would then be a beacon for other people to find God and have their lives transformed.

### ***Read Ezekiel 36:25-27.***

- What is God's plan to transform our lives?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- How do we receive the new spirit Ezekiel wrote about?



***Read John 14:15-21.***

- How can we receive the Holy Spirit?
- Who sends the Spirit?

Meet a transformed person,  
John Mark, by reading a few  
passages:

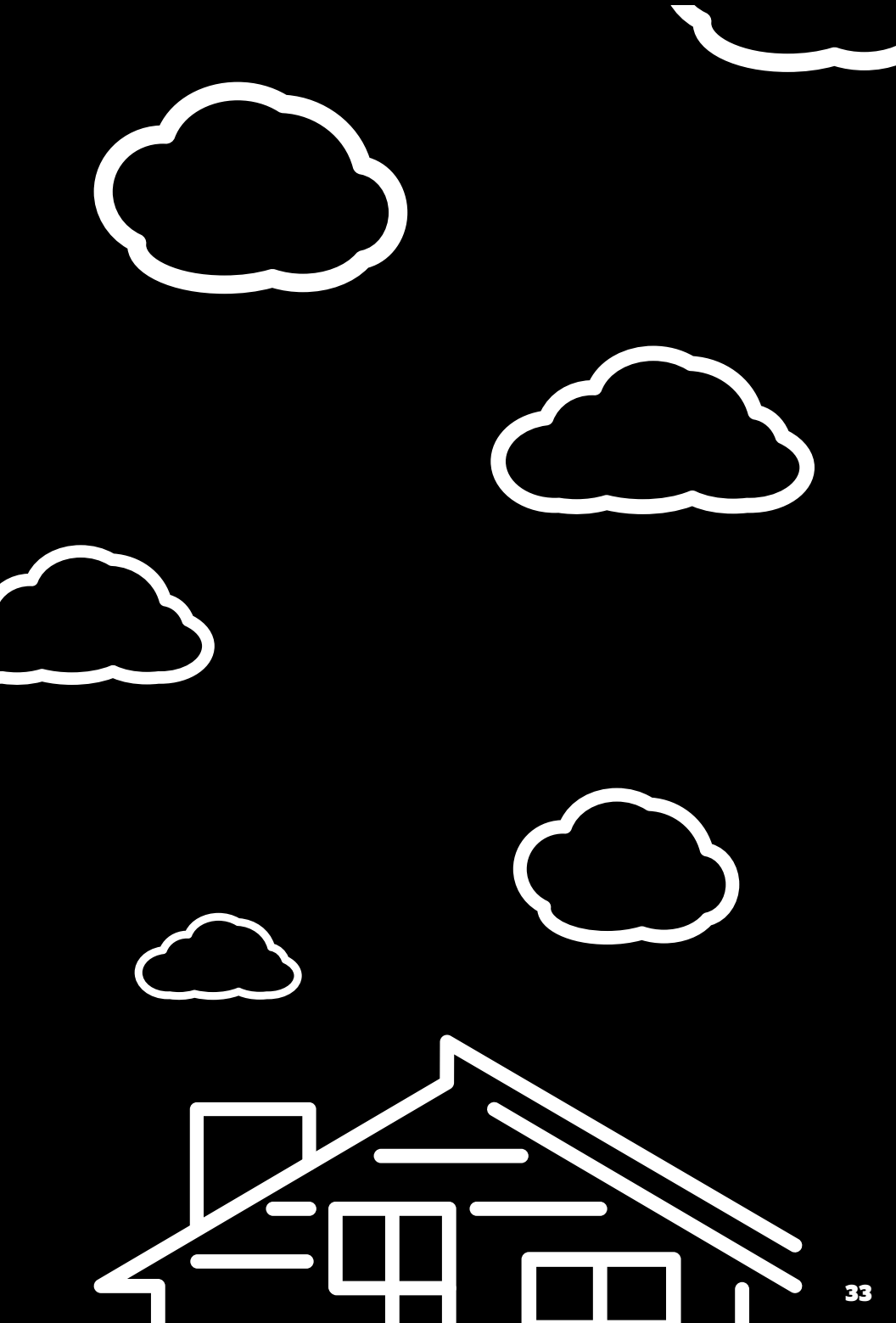
- Acts 13:1-13
- Acts 15:36-41
- Colossians 4:10
- 2 Timothy 4:9-11

- List what you learned about John Mark.


Over the course of Paul's ministry, from the time of his first missionary journey in Acts 13 (AD 37) to his final imprisonment around AD 67, his relationship with Barnabas was repaired and his relationship with John Mark was improved so much that they were partners in ministry.

- Over the course of your life, how have you grown in your usefulness in Jesus' mission?
- How will you continue to grow in usefulness to Jesus?
- Who has God partnered you with in ministry?









# **Session Three:**

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# **Bondage to Breakthrough**

### Introduction

This week, we encounter a hard core Fixer Upper project. This is like one of those house flipping shows where you wonder why they ever bought the house in the first place. You wonder how are they ever going to turn that one around.

The man Jesus meets here, whose name we don't even know, was in the wrong location, in complete disrepair and was unwanted by everyone—everyone except Jesus. We know him as the Demon-Possessed Man.

### Begin the Story

Open your group with prayer. This should be a brief, simple prayer, in which you invite God to be with you as you meet. You can pray for specific requests at the end of the meeting or stop momentarily to pray if a particular situation comes up during your discussion.

As we have said in previous lessons, sharing our personal stories builds deeper connections among group members. Your story may be exactly what another person needs to hear to encourage or strengthen them. And your listening to others' stories is an act of love and kindness to them—and could very well help them to grow spiritually. Begin your time together by using the following questions to get people talking.

- Would anyone like to share their insights from the Digging Deeper section from last week?
- Where is the scariest place you've ever been? Why was it scary?
- What work do you hope God never asks you to do for Him?



## Watch the DVD

Watch the video for this session now. Use the Notes space provided to record key thoughts, questions, and things you want to remember or follow up on. After you finish watching the video, have someone read the discussion questions in the God's Story section and direct the discussion among the group.

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## God's Story

***Read Mark 5:1-20 aloud.***

We are saved from spiritual bondage and sin bondage by Jesus Christ. Just like the man from our story, we are powerless to free ourselves from our bondage. Jesus has to intercede for us. Jesus offers a complete renovation—right down to the foundation.

- What binds you and keeps you from fulfilling your potential?
- What keeps some people from asking Jesus to free them from their bondage?
- What could be scary about the new reality that Jesus offers?

***Read Colossians 3:9-10 aloud.***

The Demon-Possessed Man was visibly transformed from one kind of creature into a brand new man: clothed and sane. While not visible, our spiritual transformation is as dramatic as this man's.

- What changes have you experienced in your lifestyle, your thinking, in how you consider other people since you found Jesus?

The man asked Jesus if he could stay with Him. But Jesus told him, “No, go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful He has been.”

- Why did Jesus tell the man to tell his family?

### ***Read Acts 1:8 aloud.***

Have you ever wondered what you’re supposed to tell the people you meet? Now you know! Share with your group what Jesus has done for you and how merciful has He been with you.

### **Your Story**

Jesus doesn’t see anyone as beyond repair. Jesus was willing to enter unfriendly territory to meet people who need Him. Our friend, Pastor Jorge Acevedo, says it like this, “Lord, send me the people nobody sees and nobody else wants.”

- Where are you willing to go to meet people nobody sees and nobody else wants?
- Throughout the Bible, God commands us to take care of widows and orphans. Who are the widows and orphans near you?
- How are you taking care of them?



- What do they need? Beyond clothes and gift cards (which are useful to open the door) what do they really need?
- God tells us to visit the prisoners. What do people in prison need? How are you meeting that need?
- Are you brave enough to pray Pastor Jorge's prayer?

*Close your meeting in prayer.*

### **Digging Deeper**

Take some time between now and our next meeting to dig into God's Word. Here are some Bible passages and questions for you to explore this week. If you like, share what you learn with the group the next time you meet.

Entering unfriendly territory was a fact of life for Jesus' disciples. Jesus gave His disciples a trial run before He was crucified. After His ascension in Acts 1, the disciples would be on their own.

#### ***Read Luke 10:1-12.***

- Jesus sent out 72 apostles to heal the sick and tell the people about the Kingdom of God. (Did you know the word "apostle" means "one who is sent"?) What did Jesus tell them to do if they found themselves in unfriendly territory?
- When have you had to walk away from an unfriendly territory?

***Read Luke 18:31-34.***

**Put yourself into the disciples' shoes:**

- Jesus just predicted His death and resurrection.
- You know Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead—you saw it happen. But who is going to raise Jesus?
- Is He just telling another of His parables to teach you a lesson?
- If it's true and Jesus is going to die, what will your life be like among the Jews and Romans?

***Read Mark 14:32-50.***

The beautiful olive grove became an unfriendly territory on different levels.

- How was it emotionally unfriendly for Jesus? For the disciples?
- How was it physically unfriendly for Jesus? For the disciples?
- How was it spiritually unfriendly for Jesus? For the disciples?
- How was it mentally unfriendly for Jesus? For the disciples?





- Jesus knows all about your unfriendly territories. He's experienced them Himself. How can His experience give you comfort as you encounter your own unfriendly territories?

***Read Acts 16:11-17:14.***

- What happened in the towns (Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea) Paul and his team visited to turn them into unfriendly territories?
- How did Paul and his team respond to the change in atmosphere?
- What insights do you gain from these events to help you respond to opposition to your faith?





# **Session Four:**

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# **Forsaken to Forgiven**

## **Introduction**

This week, we get to encounter the restorative power of Jesus as He connects with a desperate woman. Jesus and His disciples were at the Temple in Jerusalem in the middle of a crowd that had gathered to hear Jesus teach and to interact with Him. Right in the middle of His message, the Pharisees barged into the gathering dragging a woman toward Jesus and throwing her at His feet. They demanded Jesus punish her for her sins to the full extent of the Law of Moses.

## **Begin the Story**

Open your group with prayer. This should be a brief, simple prayer, in which you invite God to be with you as you meet. You can pray for specific requests at the end of the meeting or stop momentarily to pray if a particular situation comes up during your discussion.

As we have said in previous lessons, sharing our personal stories builds deeper connections among group members. Your story may be exactly what another person needs to hear to encourage or strengthen them. And your listening to others' stories is an act of love and kindness to them—and could very well help them to grow spiritually. Begin your time together by using the following questions to get people talking.

- Would anyone like to share their insights from last week's Digging Deeper section?
- Share about a time when you had to choose between two good things. How did you arrive at your decision?

## **Watch the DVD**

Watch the video for this session now. Use the space provided to record key thoughts, questions, and things you want to remember or follow up on. After you finish watching the video, have someone read the discussion questions in the God's Story section and direct the discussion among the group.



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## **God's Story**

Use the following questions to guide your discussion of the teaching from the video and the Bible passage below.

### ***Read John 8:1-11 aloud.***

The Law of Moses is pretty clear in cases of adultery. Read Deuteronomy 22:22 aloud.

- Jesus was faced with a choice. What were His options?
- When have you been faced with a truth vs. grace dilemma? How did you respond to it?
- We have no way of knowing what Jesus wrote in the dust. What are some possibilities that He could have written that would cause the Pharisees to walk away?

### ***Read Deuteronomy 17:6 aloud.***

- What was required to execute the woman?
- How many witnesses remained against her?

- Was Jesus legally justified in not executing the woman? Why?
- What do you learn from how Jesus handled this entire event?
- Did Jesus choose between truth and grace? Explain.

### Your Story

The woman in our story received physical salvation. But Jesus offered her more. What did He extend to her?

If you've accepted Jesus' offer of spiritual salvation and lordship, share a short version of your story about how Jesus has transformed your life. (Be careful of time when telling your story so everyone has an opportunity to share their story.)

If you have not yet accepted Jesus' offer of spiritual salvation and lordship, you can accept it by simply telling Him using the prayer on the next page.



**Everyone, pray this prayer together aloud:**

Jesus, I want to accept your offer to forgive my sins. I want you to come into my life and transform it so that I follow your lead from now on. I know that I've done things that don't please You, things that separate me from You.

I want to accept your offer of forgiveness for my disobedience. You've made my amends with God for the sins that I've done and I want to accept your offer of that payment on my behalf. Please be my Savior and reconcile me to God.

I know that this new life is a process and along the way I will stumble and fall off course. But I ask You to be the One to pick me back up and set me back on course. I want my heart to be surrendered to what You want me to accomplish. Please be my Lord and lead me in all aspects of my life. Thank You for loving me before I loved You. Amen.

If you've prayed that prayer for the first time, please let your group know so they can celebrate with you.

*Close your meeting in prayer.*

**Digging Deeper**

Take some time between now and our next meeting to dig into God's Word. Here are some Bible passages and questions for you to explore this week. If you like, share what you learn with the group the next time you meet.

Jesus' main job on earth was to forgive people of their sins so they could do two things: have an abundant and fulfilling life on earth and to spend the rest of eternity with Him. Without forgiveness, we wouldn't be able to do either of those things. Spend some time this week exploring Jesus' ministry of forgiveness.

### ***Read Matthew 1:20-21.***

- When was Jesus' ministry chosen for Him?
- How did all the miracles and healings Jesus performed serve His main purpose as stated in Matthew 1:21?

### ***Read John 1:29.***

- What did John the Baptist say that Jesus did?

### ***Read Matthew 9:1-8.***

- Why did the teachers of religious law object to Jesus forgiving the man's sins?
- How did Jesus prove He had authority to forgive sins?
- Which miracle was more important to Jesus? Why?





Read these parables about forgiveness and record what each one teaches about forgiveness:

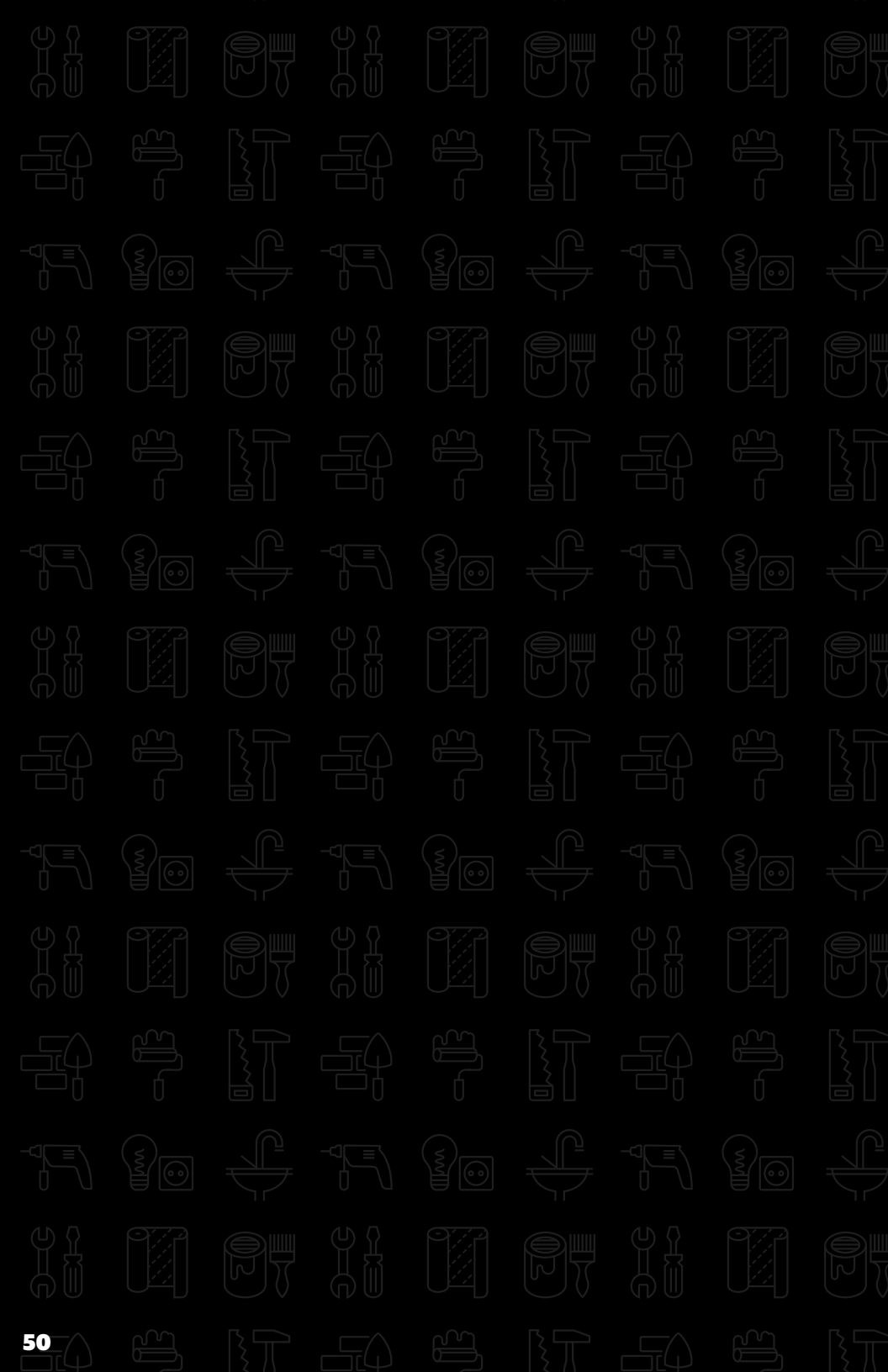
- Matthew 18:21-35
- Luke 7:36-50
- Luke 15:11-32

***Read Luke 23:33-34.***

- Jesus asks God to forgive the people who tortured and crucified Him. How does His forgiveness of them give you inspiration to forgive others who have hurt you?

***Read Luke 6:37-38.***

- Why is forgiving other people important?
- What do you do in your daily life to show your response to Jesus' forgiveness of your sins?





# **Session Five:**

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# **Living Little to Living Large**

### Introduction

This week we get to look at a remarkable moment in Jesus' ministry that affected thousands, but really started with one little boy.

For good reason, this is one of the most famous and remembered moments in the three years of Jesus' public ministry. It serves as a blueprint for how we can experience the transformative power of Jesus Christ to break through the limitations and barriers in our lives.

### Begin the Story

Open your group with prayer. This should be a brief, simple prayer, in which you invite God to be with you as you meet. You can pray for specific requests at the end of the meeting or stop momentarily to pray if a particular situation comes up during your discussion.

- Does anyone want to share insights from last week's Digging Deeper topic?
- Name a seemingly insignificant invention (yours or someone else's) and describe how it revolutionized our daily lives.

### Watch the DVD

Watch the video for this session now. Use the space provided to record key thoughts, questions, and things you want to remember or follow up on. After you finish watching the video, have someone read the discussion questions in the God's Story section and direct the discussion among the group.

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## **God's Story**

***Read John 6:1-14 aloud.***

Let's talk through the five steps of this fixer upper project and apply them to our lives in order to experience our own renovation at Jesus' hands.

### **Step 1: We start by simply following Jesus.**

In our time, following can mean simply clicking a button on a website like Facebook or Twitter, but what does it mean to actually follow Jesus? Following Jesus takes more effort than clicking a virtual button. Following Jesus requires action. To shift from not following Jesus to following Jesus will certainly disrupt areas of our lives.

- What disruption in your recreational life will occur?
- What disruption in your finances will occur?
- What disruption in your work life will occur?
- What disruption in your family life will occur?
- What disruption in your \_\_\_\_\_ will occur?

### **Step 2: We are called to participate in our renovation.**

- Is the idea of saying YES to anything Jesus asks scary or exhilarating?

Share an example from your life of saying YES to something Jesus has asked you to do.

### **Step 3: We should never underestimate the power of Jesus.**

***Read Ephesians 3:20 aloud.***

- We can bring what seems like a small idea to Jesus because we never know when He's going to use a small idea to do something great. Take a look at Andrew in our John 6 passage. What was his small idea?
- What was Philip's take on the situation?
- What has Jesus done with one of your small ideas?

### **Step 4: Recognize your blessings.**

***Read Mark 12:41-44 aloud.***

- What did the woman bring to God?
- What new small beginning do you have to bring to Jesus?
- What do you think He can do with it? Remember Ephesians 3:20.



### **Step 5: Move what you have from your own hands and place it into Jesus' hands.**

- If Jesus takes your small idea and gives it to someone else to grow into reality, how would that make you feel?
- What would happen if you hold onto your small idea?
- Since the Church is one unified body of Christ, how important is it that one person receives credit for the birth of a successful idea?
- What small idea will you move into Jesus' hands?

### **Your Story**

We all need Jesus to move in our lives; we're eager to move from living little to living large.

- Imagine the dinner table conversation when the little boy from our story got home from sharing his lunch with 5,000+ people! How do you imagine his life, his family's life, changed after Jesus super-sized his lunch?
- Discuss as a group what you have to bring to Jesus to participate in His ministry. How could you pool your time, talent, and treasure to serve Him together?
- Who is willing to investigate service opportunities for your entire group to participate in?

- Who is willing to gather ideas about what your group members are passionate about?
- As a group, offer your small beginnings to Jesus and ask Him to accomplish more than you, as a group, can even think or imagine.
- Pray Ephesians 3:20 over your offering through the course of this coming week.

Follow up during group time next week to learn what big ideas Jesus put on your hearts and minds.

*Close your meeting in prayer.*

### **Digging Deeper**

Take some time between now and our next meeting to dig into God's Word. Here are some Bible passages and questions for you to explore this week. If you like, share what you learn with the group the next time you meet.

God demonstrates His love for us throughout the Bible in events surrounding our need for food and drink. Fill yourself this week by using these Scriptures to reflect on God's provision to you.

***Read Mark 8:1-9 and Mark 8:14-21.***

- How is this story about the feeding of the 4,000 people similar and different from the story about the feeding of the 5,000 people we discussed in our lesson this week?





- What is the lesson Jesus hopes His disciples understand through these two miracles?

***Read John 2:1-11.***

- How does anything Jesus provides compare to what we provide for ourselves?
- How does this story relate to when we make plans on our own compared to when we follow Jesus' lead in our planning?

***Read Deuteronomy 8:7-16.***

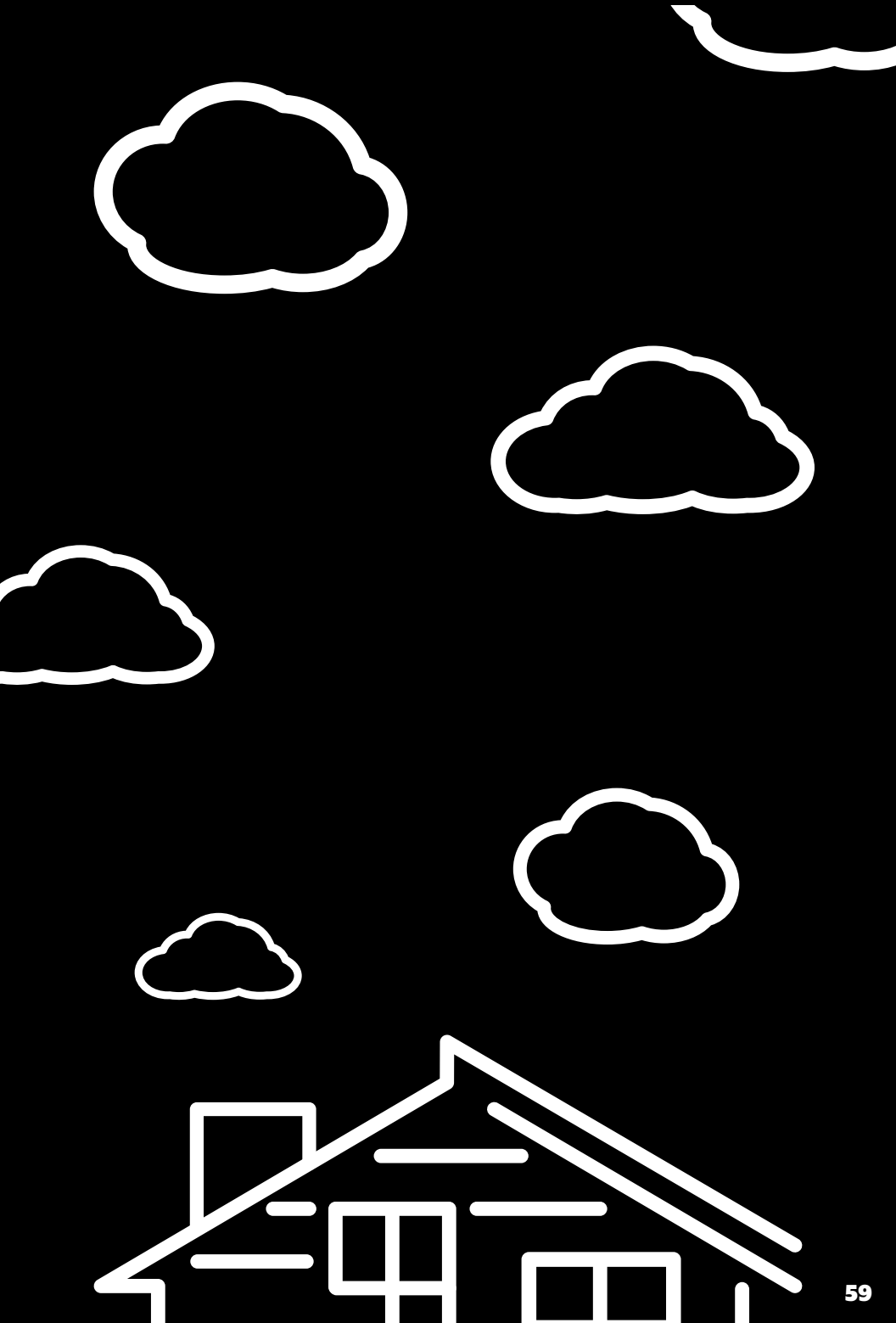
- What did God expect from the people who enjoyed the benefit of His provision?
- What is God willing to do to remind us that He is the provider of all good things?

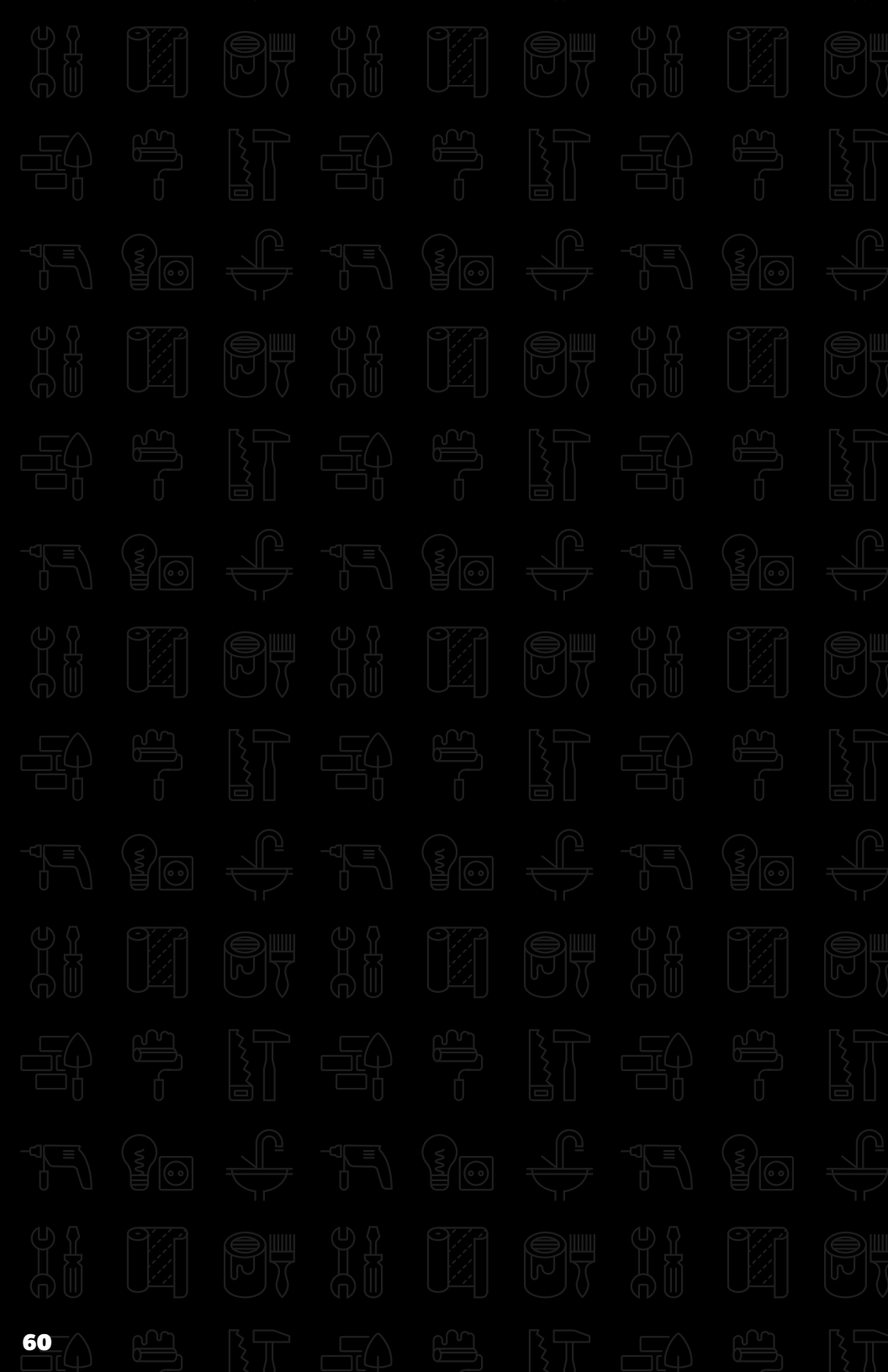
### ***Read 1 Kings 17:8-16.***


- Although God withheld rain from Israel because of the people's unfaithfulness, He blessed both Elijah and the widow for their faithfulness. How has God blessed you for your faithfulness?

### ***Read 2 Kings 4:1-7.***

- To whom do you turn in a time of calamity?
- What is the result when we turn to our friends and family?
- What is the result when we turn to God and the godly people He puts in our lives?





The background of the page is a dark gray grid filled with white line-art icons. These icons represent various tools and home improvement concepts, including wrenches, screwdrivers, paint cans, brushes, hammers, saws, power drills, light bulbs, and sinks. The icons are arranged in a repeating pattern across the entire page.

# **Session Six:**

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# **Bitter to Blessed**

### Introduction

Some of the home renovation shows we watch like *Fixer Upper*, *Flip or Flop* or *Property Brothers*, tackle various sized projects with different needs and challenges. Sometimes the before and after reveals are stunning, and take your breath away, making you wonder, “How did they do that?!”

The Bible has a dramatic fixer-upper story of a person whose life was turned upside-down after his encounter with Jesus. The Apostle known to Hebrews as Saul and to Romans as Paul was always zealous for his faith and for God. But when we first meet him, he was misguided and blind to the truth. Once Jesus got hold of him, though, he saw the light.

### Begin the Story

Open your group with prayer. This should be a brief, simple prayer, in which you invite God to be with you as you meet. You can pray for specific requests at the end of the meeting or stop momentarily to pray if a particular situation comes up during your discussion.

- Does anyone want to share insights from last week’s Digging Deeper section?
- What is the most extensive home renovation you’ve done? Did you do it yourself?

### What’s Next?

Discuss what’s next for your group. Will you do another study together? Have you chosen it yet?

Don’t forget that RightNow Media has hundreds of Small Group Studies that are available through Van Dyke Church’s subscription. If you haven’t registered with RightNow Media yet, email David Wildes at [dwildes@vandyke.org](mailto:dwildes@vandyke.org).



## Watch the DVD

Watch the video for this session now. Use the space provided to record key thoughts, questions, and things you want to remember or follow up on. After you finish watching the video, have someone read the discussion questions in the God's Story section and direct the discussion among the group.

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## God's Story

***Read Acts 9:1-19 aloud.***

- Saul was undeniably zealous in his faith and knowledge of Scripture, how could he have missed Jesus being the Messiah?
- Why was Saul going to Damascus that day?
- How did he feel about his mission?
- The voice Saul heard from heaven was undoubtedly God's voice. (Who else would be talking from heaven to a Jewish man?) How do you think Saul felt about hearing personally from God?

God's message wasn't filled with accolades for Saul's awesome job of ridding the world of these new Jesus-followers, though. God asked why Saul was persecuting Him. What do you think Saul thought about that? Did Saul think he was persecuting God?

- What did Saul think he was doing for God?
- How did Saul feel when he realized that Jesus, the man who had died, was speaking to him from heaven?
- What might be some reasons why Jesus caused Saul to be blinded?
- Jesus made Himself known to Saul, filled him with the Holy Spirit and restored his sight. What effect on Saul's emotional and spiritual state did this encounter have?
- Jesus loved Saul and his zealous passion for his faith—however misguided at first. What did Jesus focus Saul's zeal and passion on?

### **Your Story**

Jesus cleaned up Saul's messy life and set him on a mission he never would have dreamed for himself.

- What character traits did Saul exhibit in his persecution of the new Christians that God used in his ministry to them?
- How did God use Saul's experiences in his life to minister to others?
- What character traits do you have that God can use?





- What experiences in your life could be used to minister to others?
- How have you used your story to encourage others?

### **Digging Deeper**

Here are some Bible passages and questions for you to explore. We hope you share your insights with your friends and family.

Some salvation stories are dramatic stories of people who are in such desperate need of Jesus that they eagerly reach out to His hand and experience a stunning life change. Other stories tell of a more gradual awakening to Jesus' transforming power. Regardless of how dramatic these transformations are, they are all vital to the Kingdom of God.

#### ***Read Luke 19:1-9.***

- Was Zacchaeus' story a dramatic change or a gradual awareness?
- Generally speaking, who was in Zacchaeus' circle of influence that would now get to hear about how Jesus changed his life?

### ***Read Acts 8:26-38.***

- This man was so devoted to God that he traveled all the way from Ethiopia to worship at the Temple. Was his salvation dramatic or a gradual awareness?

- When you wrestle with Scripture who do you talk it over with?

- Would someone wrestling with Scripture be able to come to you to talk it over?

### ***Read Acts 10:19-48.***

- Was Cornelius' conversion a dramatic one or a more gradual one?



- Cornelius was a Roman military leader; do you think his soldiers would have noticed his conversion? How?

- Can people in your circle of influence tell that you've been transformed by Jesus?

***Read Acts 13:6-12.***

- Sergius Paulus was the governor of Paphos on the island of Cyprus. Was his conversion dramatic or gradual?

- How should his conversion affect how he ruled his city?

### ***Read Acts 16:22-34.***

- Was the jailer's conversion sudden or gradual?
- How difficult would it be for the jailer to grow in his faith in a city with people so opposed to Christianity?
- What difficulties have you faced because of your faith?

Your story, like the stories we've read this week, can change lives. Whether you would witness a dramatic conversion or if you would be watering a slow-growing seed of faith, your story is important. One thing the stories in Scripture have in common is that they're all relatively short and free from extraneous details. Can you tell your story in a couple of minutes, sticking to the major points and leaving the details for a later conversation? Practice writing a 100-word version of your story. Then share it! Jesus will take what you have to offer and multiply it.



# Series Conclusion

In our Fixer Upper series, God has shown us some fascinating people whose lives needed renovation and restoration. Some were in seemingly more disrepair than others, but all of them needed the intervention of the master builder, Jesus.

**Week 1** - Peter was transformed from Stinky to Stellar

**Week 2** - Levi was converted from a Notorious Sinner to a Notable Saint

**Week 3** - The Demon-Possessed Man was taken from Bondage to Breakthrough

**Week 4** - The adulterous woman was changed from Forsaken to Forgiven

**Week 5** - The little boy moved from Living Little to Living Large when Jesus took his little Happy Meal and Super-Sized it to feed 15,000 people!

**Week 6** The zealous persecutor of Christians was transformed into a zealous preacher of the Gospel to the world.

What's your story?

I was \_\_\_\_\_

now I'm \_\_\_\_\_.



# **APPENDIX**

Resources to make your small  
group experience even better!

## **HOSTING AN OPEN HOUSE**

If you're starting a new group, plan an "open house" before your first formal group meeting. Even if you have only two to four core members, it's a great way to break the ice and to consider prayerfully who else might be open to joining you over the next few weeks. You can also use this kick-off meeting to hand out study guides, spend some time getting to know each other, discuss each person's expectations for the group and briefly pray for each other. A simple meal or good desserts always make a kick-off meeting more fun.

After people introduce themselves and share how they ended up being at the meeting (you can play a game to see who has the wildest story!), have everyone respond to a few icebreaker questions:

- What is your favorite family vacation?
- What is one thing you love about your church/your community?
- What are three things about your life growing up that most people here don't know?

Next, ask everyone to tell what he or she hopes to get out of the study. You might want to review the Small Group Agreement and talk about each person's expectations and priorities.

Finally, set an open chair (maybe two) in the center of your group and explain that it represents someone who would enjoy or benefit from this group but who isn't here yet. Ask people to pray about inviting someone to join the group over the next few weeks. Hand out postcards and have everyone write an invitation or two. Don't worry about ending up with too many people; you can always have one discussion circle in the living room and another in the dining room after you watch the lesson. Each group could then report prayer requests and progress at the end of the session.

You'll experience a huge benefit when you take the time to connect with each other in this way.

# LEADERSHIP TRAINING 101

## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

You have responded to the call to help shepherd Jesus' flock. There are few other tasks in the family of God that surpass the contribution you will be making. As you prepare to lead, here are a few thoughts to keep in mind.

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## **REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE NOT ALONE.**

God knows everything about you, and He knew that you would be asked to host your group. Remember that it is common for all good leaders to feel that they are not ready to lead. Moses, Solomon, Jeremiah and Timothy were all reluctant to lead. God promises, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5). Bring your uniqueness to the study. Lean into who you are and how God wants you to uniquely lead the study.

---

## **DON'T TRY TO DO IT ALONE.**

Pray right now for God to help you build a healthy leadership team. If you can enlist a co-host to help you, you will find your experience to be much richer. This is your chance to involve as many people as you can in building a healthy group. All you have to do is call and ask people to help. You'll probably be surprised at the response.

---

## **JUST BE YOURSELF.**

If you won't be you, who will? God wants you to use your unique gifts and temperament. Don't try to do things exactly like someone else; do them in a way that fits you! Just admit it when you don't have an answer, and apologize when you make a mistake. Your group will love you for it, and you'll sleep better at night!



## **PREPARE FOR YOUR MEETING AHEAD OF TIME.**

Review the session and write down your responses to each question. Go through the session several times. Consider writing in a journal or fasting for a day to prepare yourself for what God wants to do. Don't wait until the last minute to prepare. Ask your co-host or close friend to pray for you and prepare with you before the session. Walking through the study will help you anticipate potentially difficult questions and discussion topics.

---

## **PRAY FOR YOUR GROUP MEMBERS BY NAME.**

Before you begin your session, go around the room in your mind and pray for each member by name. You may want to review the prayer list at least once a week. Ask God to use your time together to touch the heart of every person uniquely. Expect God to lead you to whomever He wants you to encourage or challenge in a special way. If you listen, God will surely lead!

---

## **WHEN YOU ASK A QUESTION, BE PATIENT.**

Someone will eventually respond. Sometimes people need a moment or two of silence to think about the question. Keep in mind, if silence doesn't bother you, it won't bother anyone else. After someone responds, affirm the response with a simple "thanks" or "good job." Then ask, "How about somebody else?" or "Would someone who hasn't shared like to add anything?" Be sensitive to new people or reluctant members who aren't ready to say, pray or do anything. If you give them a safe setting, they will blossom over time.

---

## **PROVIDE TRANSITIONS BETWEEN QUESTIONS.**

When guiding the discussion, always read aloud the transitional paragraphs and the questions. Ask the group if anyone would like to read the paragraph or Bible passage. Don't call on anyone, but ask for a volunteer, and then be patient until someone begins. Be sure to thank the person who reads aloud.

---

## **ONE FINAL CHALLENGE (FOR NEW OR FIRST TIME HOSTS).**

Before your first opportunity to lead, look up each of the five passages listed below. Read each one as a devotional exercise to help yourself develop a shepherd's heart. Trust us on this one. If you do this, you will be more than ready for your first meeting.

- Matthew 9:36
- 1 Peter 5:2-4
- Psalm 23
- Ezekiel 34:11-16
- 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8, 11-12

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **What do we do on the first night of our group?**

Like all fun things in life—have a party! That’s what our open house nights are for. Check out the Open House page in this Appendix for more information and ideas about hosting an open house before your study begins.

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### **Is this material offered online?**

Yes, both the study guide and video lesson are available online. Visit [vandyke.org](http://vandyke.org), search “small groups” for more information.

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### **Where do we find new members for our group?**

This can be troubling, especially for new groups that have only a few people or for existing groups that lose a few people along the way. We encourage you to pray with your group and then brainstorm a list of people from work, church, your neighborhood, your children’s school, family, the gym, and so forth. Then have each group member invite several of the people on his or her list. Check out the Circles of Life chart in Session One of this book for a great framework to brainstorm.

---

### **Can we do this study on our own?**

Absolutely! This may sound crazy, but one of the best ways to do this study is not with a full house but with a few friends. You may choose to gather with another couple who would enjoy some relational time (perhaps going to the movies or having a quiet dinner) and then walking through this study. Jesus will be with you even if there are only two of you (Matthew 18:20).

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### **What if this group is not working for us?**

You’re not alone! This could be the result of a personality conflict, life stage difference, geographical distance, level of spiritual maturity, or any number of things. Relax. Pray for God’s direction, and at the end of this six-week study, decide whether to continue with this group or find another. You don’t typically buy the first car you look at or marry the first person you date, and the same goes with a group. However, don’t bail out before the six weeks are up—God might have something to teach you. Also, don’t run from conflict or prejudge people before you have given them a chance. God is still working in your life, too!

### **How long will this group meet?**

Series groups meet weekly for their first six weeks. We strongly recommend groups meet for the first six months, for 3-4 times a month. This allows for continuity, and if people miss a meeting they aren't gone for a whole month. At the end of this study, each group member may decide if he or she wants to continue on for another study. Some groups launch relationships for years to come, and others are stepping-stones into another group experience. Either way, enjoy the journey.

---

### **How do we handle the childcare needs in our group?**

Very carefully. Seriously, this can be a sensitive issue. We suggest that you empower the group to openly brainstorm solutions. You may try one option that works for a while and then adjust over time. Our favorite approach is for adults to meet in the living room or dining room and to share the cost of a babysitter (or two) who can watch the kids in a different part of the house. This way, parents don't have to be away from their children all evening when their children are too young to be left at home. A second option is to use one home for the kids and a second home (close by or a phone call away) for the adults. A third idea is to rotate the responsibility of providing a lesson or care for the children either in the same home or in another home nearby. This can be an incredible blessing for kids. Finally, the most common solution is to decide that you need to have a night to invest in your spiritual lives individually or as a couple and to make your own arrangements for childcare. No matter what decision the group makes, the best approach is to dialogue openly about both the problem and the solution.

## SMALL GROUP AGREEMENT

### OUR PURPOSE

To provide a predictable environment where participants experience authentic community and spiritual growth.

### OUR VALUES

Group Attendance	To give priority to the group meeting. We will call or email if we will be late or absent. (Completing the Group Calendar in this Appendix will minimize this issue.)
Safe Environment	To help create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved. (Please, no quick answers, snap judgments, or simple fixes.)
Respect Differences	To be gentle and gracious to people with different spiritual maturity, personal opinions, temperaments, or “imperfections” in fellow group members. We are all works in progress.
Confidentiality	To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group, and to avoid sharing improper information about those outside the group.
Encouragement for Growth	To be not just takers but givers of life. We want to spiritually multiply our life by serving others with our God-given gifts.
Shared Ownership	To remember that every member is a minister and to ensure that each attender will share a small team role or responsibility over time.
Rotating Hosts/ Leaders and Homes	To encourage different people to host the group in their homes and to rotate the responsibility of facilitating each meeting. (See the Group Calendar in this Appendix.)

# OUR EXPECTATIONS

When we will meet (day of week) \_\_\_\_\_

Where we will meet (place) \_\_\_\_\_

We will begin at (time) \_\_\_\_\_

and end at (time) \_\_\_\_\_

Refreshments/mealtimes (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Childcare \_\_\_\_\_

Date of this agreement \_\_\_\_\_

Date we will review this agreement again \_\_\_\_\_

Who (other than the host) will review this agreement at the end  
of this study? \_\_\_\_\_

# Group Calendar

Planning and calendaring can help ensure the greatest participation at every meeting. At the end of each meeting, review this calendar. Be sure to include a regular rotation of host homes and leaders, and don't forget birthdays, socials, church events, holidays, and mission/ministry projects.

DATE	LESSON	HOST HOME	DESSERT /SNACK	DISCUSSION FACILITATOR
Thursday, January 22	1	Steve & Laura's	Joe	Bill

## Prayer & Praise Report

SESSION ONE	
SESSION TWO	
SESSION THREE	
SESSION FOUR	
SESSION FIVE	
SESSION SIX	

# Small Group Roster

NAME	EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER



# Thank You

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## **Matthew Hartsfield**

is the Lead Pastor of Van Dyke Church in Tampa, Florida, where he has served since 1993, and the author of *Shouting at Jesus*. Matthew received his undergraduate education at Nova Southeastern University in 1984 and earned his Master of Divinity from Emory University in 1987. Matthew has been a minister since 1986 and has also served churches in Jacksonville and Lake Alfred, Florida. His ministry at Van Dyke Church focuses on connecting the church to the community in meaningful ways that result in making disciples for Jesus Christ, particularly in the lives of children and youth. Matthew is married to Maisie and they have two daughters, Sarah and Jill.

---

## **David Wildes**

is the Director of GroupLIFE at Van Dyke Church in Tampa, Florida, where he has served since 2011. David received his undergraduate education from Samford University in 2001 and earned his Master of Divinity from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 2005. David has served in full-time ministry on church staffs and missions organizations since 2003. His ministry at Van Dyke Church is creating environments that foster intentional relationships with the goal of growing disciples for Jesus Christ. David is married to Carrie and they have two daughters Madeline and Everly.

---

## **Lynne Fukutani**

is the Director of Curriculum Development at Van Dyke Church in Tampa, Florida where she has served since 2007. Lynne received her undergraduate education at Clearwater Christian College and holds a Bachelor of Arts in the Bible and Biblical Languages. Lynne develops Bible study curriculum at Van Dyke Church and for incarcerated youth through Jesus for Juveniles. Lynne is married to Harry and they have four children: Eli, Emily, Tyler and Sara; and one granddaughter, Lochlyn.



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