



Week 1 Small Group: The Risk

OPENING PRAYER:

Good and gracious God our creator, we invite you into this place.

Jesus, we light this candle as a sign of your presence.

Spirit of wisdom and understanding, enlighten us.

We pray that we keep our hearts and minds open to new ideas and that we may grow in our understanding of your ways. Amen.

Quote

“We grow faith by putting ourselves in situations that will require faith of us.” Jim Martin

BREAKING THE ICE:

Name a time when you took a risk as the church.

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:

Read Luke 5:1-11

- Jesus told Simon what to do and he did it without hesitation. Why do you think he responded that way?
- Jesus’ directive to cast the nets at that time of day was devoid of any fishing practice, yet Simon, an experienced fisherman, still followed his advice. Why? How might this incident have an effect later in Simon’s ministry?

NEXT STEPS:

- What might draw people to your church’s mission and ministry opportunities?
- Are there risky opportunities that you have passed up recently? What might change after reflecting on it through the lens of this lesson?
- What might you learn from Simon’s actions in this lesson?

CLOSING PRAYER:

God, we thank you for these words. Help us to apply them to our lives and to the ministry we do in this church and our service to all the world. Jesus, continue speaking to us so that we can know your will and follow you. Holy Spirit, guide us in a way that leads to hope, love and grace. Amen.



Week 2 Small Group: Common Good

OPENING PRAYER:

Good and gracious God our creator, we invite you into this place.

Jesus, we light this candle as a sign of your presence.

Spirit of wisdom and understanding, enlighten us.

We pray that we keep our hearts and minds open to new ideas and that we may grow in our understanding of your ways. Amen.

Quote

“For Christians, faith is a precious good, the most valuable personal and social resource. When it is left untapped, the common good suffers, not just the particular interests of Christians.” Miroslav Volf

BREAKING THE ICE:

Name some of the talents and gifts of your congregants. Remember to think of some of the less obvious ones like compassion and hospitality.

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-13

- How might the spiritual gifts listed be used for the common good?
- Where do the gifts come from? Why is this fact so important?

NEXT STEPS:

- Why is it important for you to discover and develop your gifts?
- How do we encourage each other to use our gifts to build up the mission and ministry of the church?

CLOSING PRAYER:

God, we thank you for these words. Help us to apply them to our lives and to the ministry we do in this church and our service to all the world. Jesus, continue speaking to us so that we can know your will and follow you. Holy Spirit, stir in us a desire to use our gifts in a way that others will be blessed. Amen.



Week 3 Small Group: No Strings Attached

OPENING PRAYER:

Good and gracious God our creator, we invite you into this place.

Jesus, we light this candle as a sign of your presence.

Spirit of wisdom and understanding, enlighten us.

We pray that we keep our hearts and minds open to new ideas and that we may grow in our understanding of your ways. Amen.

Quote

"Love is the doorway through which the human soul passes from selfishness to service." Unknown.

BREAKING THE ICE:

Besides the church, name one place you have truly felt welcomed recently.

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:

Read Acts 2:42-47

- What made the early church so appealing to others?
- Of all the characteristics of the early group of believers that are mentioned in these verses, which surprised you and why?

NEXT STEPS:

- What elements of community found in this passage do you see demonstrated in your church?
- What gets in the way of our commitment to community life? How can we reduce our tendency towards individualism?
- How do we create true community connections through technology?

CLOSING PRAYER:

God, we thank you for these words, help us to apply them to our lives and to the ministry we do in this church and our service to all the world. Jesus, continue speaking to us so that we can know your will and love one another fully without strings. Holy Spirit, guide us in a way that leads to hope, love and grace. Amen.



Week 4 Small Group: Commit

OPENING PRAYER:

Good and gracious God our creator, we invite you into this place.

Jesus, we light this candle as a sign of your presence.

Spirit of wisdom and understanding, enlighten us.

We pray that we keep our hearts and minds open to new ideas and that we may grow in our understanding of your ways. Amen.

Quote

"We have to recognize that there cannot be relationships unless there is commitment, unless there is loyalty, unless there is love, patience, persistence." Cornel West

BREAKING THE ICE:

What was one of the most exciting times in your life when you were able to get rid of something old and replace it with something new?

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:

Read Ephesians 4:22-24

- What does it mean to be renewed in the spirit of your mind?
- How can we do this as individuals? As a church?

NEXT STEPS:

- What are the new things that you will commit to as an individual that will build your faith?
- What are the new things that you will commit to in order to build up the church for the future?

CLOSING PRAYER:

God, we thank you for these words, help us to apply them to commit our lives and to you, the ministry of this church and to service to all the world. Jesus, continue speaking to us so that we can know your will and follow you. Holy Spirit, guide us in a way that leads to hope, love and grace. Amen.