

SCRIPTURE CARD GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

"PRACTICING WELCOMING" MARCH 4 & 5

SERIES OVERVIEW:

Everyone is looking for a place to belong. From the time Adam and Eve were sent from the garden we have been a people who are constantly wandering trying to find our place. The message of Easter and the invitation from Jesus is to find our place in Him. This Lent we will be on a journey of finding our place and helping others find their place. Are you ready to take a walk in the footsteps of Jesus?

Follow the directions below for a guided group discussion with a friend, in a family, small group, etc. Grab a Scripture Card (printed or electronic) and simply follow steps from 1 to 6 on this page and the next.

1

PRAY

About 2 minutes

Ask a volunteer to open in prayer.

2

BIG IDEA

A minute to read

From the Old Testament to the New Testament we see the importance of welcoming the stranger and outsider in. This means creating a welcoming environment for people who may be new to a community or unfamiliar with its customs and traditions and welcoming those who are considered outsiders.

3

CONNECT

About 10 minutes

Share a high and a low since the group last met.

Share a story of how someone helped you feel emotionally and socially at ease when you were in a new environment or with new people. What did this person do and why was it helpful?



March 5, 2023

Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. - Luke 15:1 NLT

Reflect

Read the full passage in your Bible - Luke 15:1-7.

What stands out to you from the passage and why?

What might Jesus want to change in your heart to be more like him?

What can you do to welcome people who are different from you into your life, church, and community?

4

DISCIPLE LIFE DISCUSSION

About 45-50 minutes. Read the Scripture above and discuss the questions there. Additional questions below.

Skim the section headings in your Bible from Luke 5-Luke 15. What types of people did Jesus welcome? Why was this counter-cultural at that time? Would it be counter-cultural today? Why or why not?

Jesus the Good Shepherd, leaves the 99 sheep and goes to search for the 1 lost sheep to bring it home. What patterns in your life help you seek out "lost sheep"? Does considering the sheep as lost, rather than mean, anti-social, or wrong change your perspective? Why or why not?

Welcoming sinners, does not mean watering down the truth. Jesus was a perfect example of all truth and grace. Describe a situation of how that could look in your day to day life.

Read Leviticus 19:33-34. God reminds the Israelites that they were once foreigners living in a foreign land. What gets in the way of us including and welcoming people who are different than us?

DISCUSSION HELP:

Use follow-up questions to take the discussion deeper. Guide answers to be honest and real.

Can you say more about that?

How have you seen that play out in your life?

What does that stir up in you?

Has anyone else had a similar thought or experience?

What might God be inviting you to do?

5 PRAY:

About 15 minutes

The read the Scripture Card Prayer Prompts below and take a moment for the group to individually and silently reflect on it. Invite the group to write their prayer requests on an index card with their name at the top of the card. Put all cards in the middle of the room and each person takes a card that is not their own. Pray aloud in a circle prayer for the card you hold. The leader or apprentice will open and close the prayer.

THE [DISCIPLE] LIFE

Pray

Thank Jesus for his work on the cross and for loving us while we were yet sinners.

Talk to God about anything that needs to change in your heart or in your actions.

Ask Jesus to grow your compassion, humility, and love for all people. Ask him to help you see people as he sees people.

Live It Out

Reach out to someone in your neighborhood who comes from a different ethnic background and invite them into a conversation where you can learn about their background and culture.

**Jesus, thank you for inviting me
into this LIFE of following you today!**

6

LIVE IT OUT:

About 2 minutes

Read the "Live It Out" section and invite the group to take action on it. Follow up next time on what they learned from the experience.