



Small Group Guide – Week of February 15

Upside Down: The Gospel According to Luke

Date: Week of February 15, 2025

Focus Passage(s): Luke 5:17–26 | Crowd or Crew

Theme: Big Idea Church was never meant to be a crowd experience. It is meant to be a crew commitment.

Suggested Schedule (60 minutes total)

Segment	Time	Description
Icebreaker	10 min	Get comfortable, begin connecting
Intro/Recap	5 min	Read the key passages for the week
Group Discussion	25 min	Dive into Scripture and discuss real-life application
Deeper Dive Option	5–10 min	Deeper Bible study or individual challenge
Prayer & Requests	10–15 min	Close in prayer for growth + personal needs

Welcome + Icebreaker (10 min)

Prompt: These questions help us begin thinking about the theme of being part of a crew rather than a part of the crowd.

What is the most exciting live event you have ever attended? What made it memorable?

Have you ever been part of a crowd for something big? What did it feel like to be one of many?

On the flip side, when have you experienced being part of a small, tight-knit team or crew? What made that different?

Key Message Recap (5 min)

It is easy to be part of a crowd. It takes intention to be part of a crew.

Read aloud: Luke 5:17–26

The house was packed. The crowd was gathered around Jesus. Four friends carried a paralyzed man to Him, but the crowd blocked the way. Instead of giving up, they climbed on the roof, tore it open, and lowered their friend down to Jesus. Jesus forgave his sins and healed him.

The crowd was in awe at what happened. But the friends walked away knowing they did whatever it takes to point their friend to Jesus. Church is not meant to be a crowd where we attend, watch, and leave. It is meant to be a crew. A crew of friends who are there for each other, support each other, and do whatever it takes to bring people to the feet of Jesus.

Dig Deeper – Discussion Questions (25 min)

Observation and Understanding

What differences do you notice between the crowd and the four friends in this story?

Why do you think the crowd did not make space for the paralyzed man?

What risks did the four friends take to get their friend to Jesus?

From Crowd to Crew

In what ways can church today feel more like a crowd than a crew?

What keeps people from moving beyond attendance into real relationships?

Have you ever experienced a “crew” environment in church or community? What made it different?

“You Can Sit With Us” Mentality

What does it practically look like to live with a “You Can Sit With Us” mentality?

Who in your life might feel like they are stuck outside the room right now?

What is one practical way you could help carry someone toward Jesus this week?

Personal Reflection

How can we, as a group, develop a “You Can Sit with Us” mentality?

What would need to change for you to take one step deeper into crew-level commitment?

What is one step you can take this week to move from spectator to participant?

Deeper Dive (Optional)

The Good Samaritan – Luke 10:25–37 Moving toward someone in need instead of passing by.

Ruth and Naomi – Ruth 1–2 Loyalty and relational commitment beyond convenience.

Jesus Calling the Twelve – Luke 6:12–16 Jesus built a crew before He built a movement.

Acts 2:42–47 The early church devoted to teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer.

How does God consistently work through committed community rather than isolated individuals?

Prayer Time (10 min)

Thank God for placing us in community. Ask Him to help us see people the way Jesus sees them. Pray for courage to move from crowd mentality to crew commitment.

Invite group members to share personal prayer needs that are spiritual, relational, or practical. Encourage confidentiality and care.