



Table of Contents

Introduction	Page 2
Stepping into Risk	Page 4
Shift: Seeing yourself & your friends differently	Page 7
5 Thresholds	Page 13
Big Story	Page 16
Your Table: Building Trust with your Unconvinced Friends	Page 17
Host a Launch Gathering	Page 23
Encountering Jesus	Page 40

Introduction

Welcome to a beautiful, mysterious and amazing journey! Saying yes to Jesus is the most glorious and the most terrifying thing we can do in our lives.

Two thousand years ago when the giant sequoias in California were just small saplings and the waves of the Sea of Galilee were pounding the shore and boats, Jesus said to some small town fishermen, "come, follow me." No doubt partly compelled by God's hand and partly drawn by this teacher who taught with authority, they said yes and followed him. They had no idea what future events this decision would unlock. A bit like falling in love, they jumped in and took a risk, trusting that the relationship was worth it.

**Come,
follow me**

As you begin the beautiful journey of exploring, learning about and engaging in your own leadership development, we want to invite you to say yes to Jesus again and again. This is the disciple's journey. We've entitled the first section in your guide, "Stepping into Risk," because in the kingdom of God, saying yes to Jesus always involves some kingdom risk.

**Saying yes to
Jesus, always
involves some
kingdom risk**

It might mean using your time or resources differently or sharing your faith with someone in your life that you care about. As hard as these risks might seem now, remember there is no growth in God's kingdom without learning to take risks with Jesus. The first step of risk for those first followers on the edge of the Sea of Galilee was to lay down their fishing nets. For some the nets represented the family business, passed on from generation to generation. For all, the nets represented their livelihood. Following Jesus meant letting this all go and trusting it would be ok.

As you work through this guide, you'll find we've woven about five basic exercises together that build off one another. The building block of this journey is what we call a "discipleship cycle." This is a framework in InterVarsity that involves three steps (in a circle or cycle): hearing the word of God, actively responding, then debriefing and reflecting on how God worked through what you did. We've curated a set of discipleship cycles that we've handcrafted and tested with students to be the best and clearest steps to growing in leadership we can offer.



Near the end of this journey, we'll ask you to engage your seeking friends and help them explore who Jesus is through some wonderfully illustrated discussion guides that we've included. The fifth and last of these guides will help you to invite a friend to follow Jesus for the first time. This may even now be creating anxiety or fear in you as you try to picture how you'll ever take this step. Our prayer is that you would trust us and more importantly, trust Jesus that he has good things in store for you and will never use shame, fear or guilt to motivate your growth.

Jesus is alive and he has an incredible journey for you! Just as he asked those fishermen two thousand years ago, he's asking you to follow him.

Will you step out into risk and say yes?

PRINCE
SOKO

Matthew 14:22-33

²² Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³ After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, ²⁴ and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. ²⁵ Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. ²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." ²⁸ "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ "Come," he said. Then

**Take courage!
It is I. Don't
be afraid.**

**Peter got down
out of the boat,
walked on the
water and came
toward Jesus.**

Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" ³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Step Into Risk



1) What do you think Peter experiences at each stage of his risk?

2) As you think about each of these stages, what do you think you'll experience?

SHIFF

Seeing Yourself
& Your Friends
Differently

John 1:35-51

³⁵ The next day John was there again with two of his disciples.

³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ When the two disciples heard him say this, they fol-

lowed Jesus. ³⁸ Turning around, Jesus saw them following and

asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you stay-

ing?"³⁹ "Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw

where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was

about four in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who

had followed Jesus. ⁴¹ The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah"

(that is, the Christ). ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus

**We have found
the Messiah**

**Look, the
Lamb of
God!**

looked at him and said, "You are Si-

mon son of John.

You will be called

Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter). ⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to

John 1:35-51 (cont.)

him, "Follow me."⁴⁴ Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida.⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."⁴⁶ "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip.⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit."

Can anything good come from Nazareth?

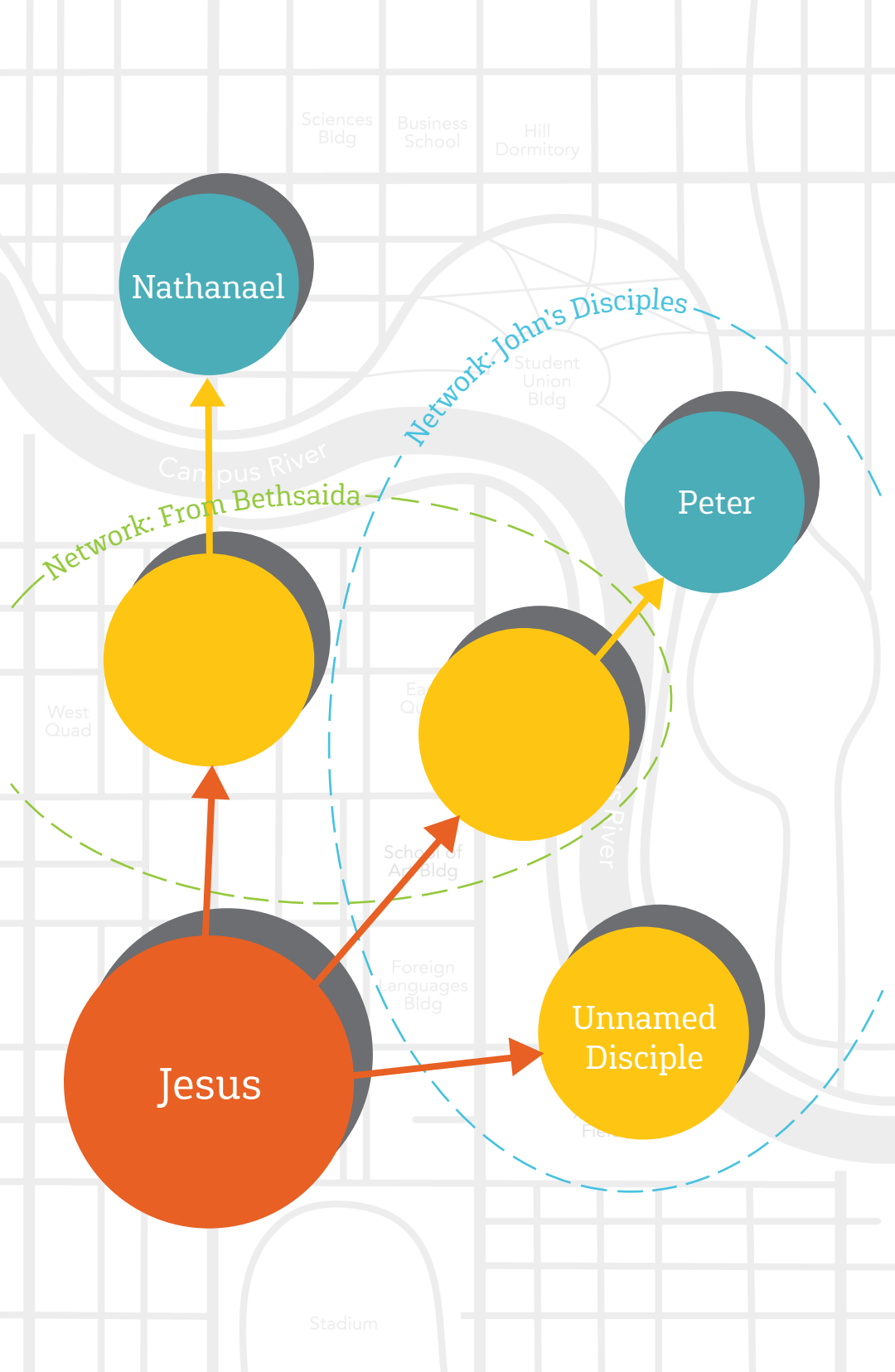
⁴⁸ "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you."⁴⁹ Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel."⁵⁰ Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You

Rabbi, you are the Son of God

will see greater things than that."

⁵¹ He then added, "Very truly I tell

you, you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on' the Son of Man."



Nathanael

Peter

Jesus

Unnamed Disciple

Network: From Bethsaida

Network: John's Disciples

Jesus is stunning. When you find the real Jesus, you discover the real you. After hanging out with the real Jesus, you want to follow him with all you are.

You and Jesus

1. What do you like about Jesus in this passage?
2. Jesus know you name. Are you more skeptical like Nathanael? Or do you like to invite people to see for themselves, like Philip does?
3. Have you ever decided to radically follow Jesus? Why or why not?

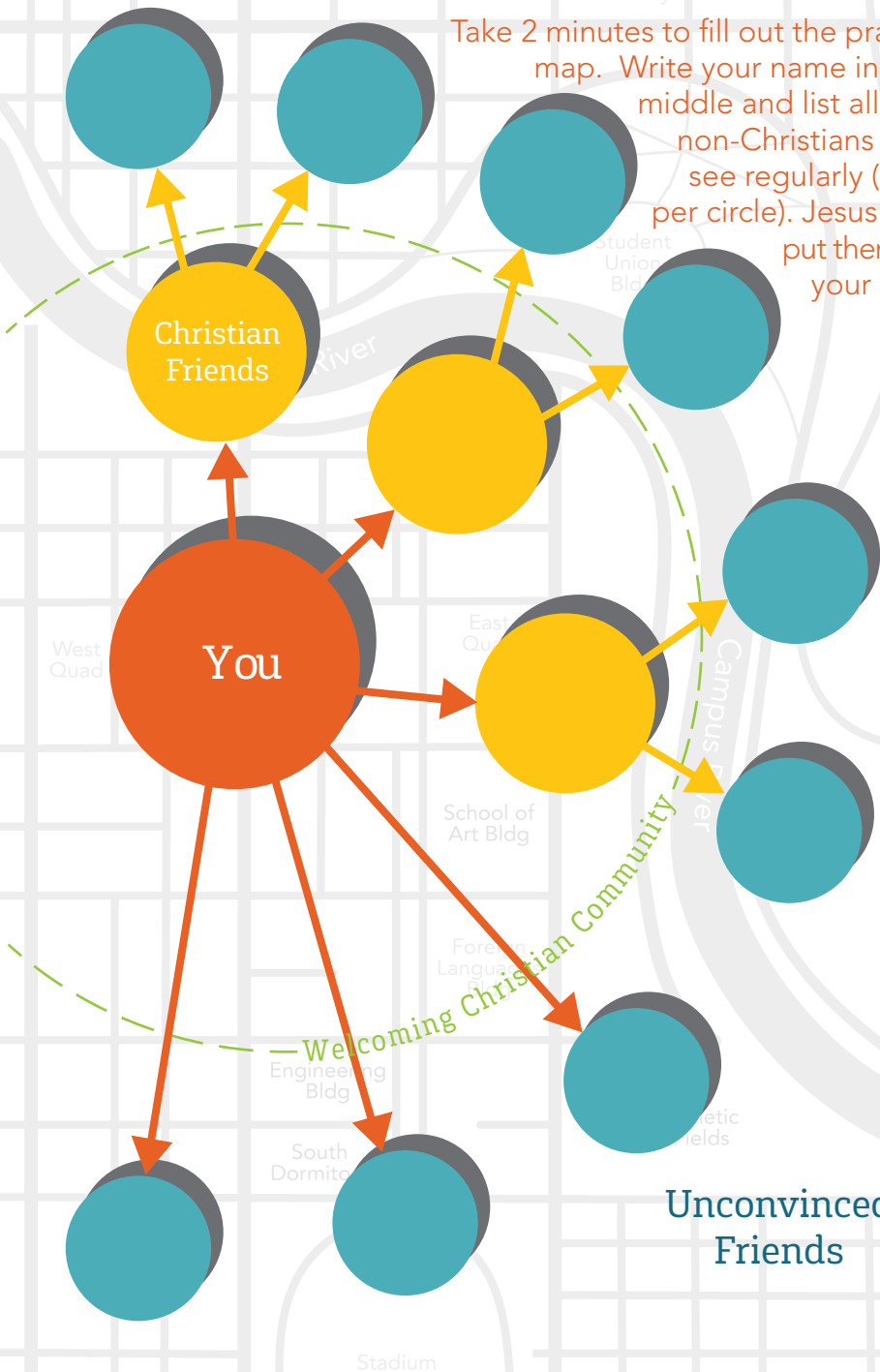
You and Others

When you know the real Jesus, you joyfully invite others to check him out.

1. How do you feel about inviting others to explore Jesus? Why?
2. Turn to the next page to think about the impact your life could have.

Step 1: Prayer Map

Take 2 minutes to fill out the prayer map. Write your name in the middle and list all the non-Christians you see regularly (one per circle). Jesus has put them in your life!



The 5 Thresholds

Part of following Jesus is inviting others to “come and see” Jesus. Read over these 5 steps, and think about how you can encourage your friends to explore faith.

TRUSTING



Your friend has little or no trust for Christians.

Next Step: Invest in your friendship and build trust.

CURIOUS



Your friend has some questions about faith, but it's not personal for them.

Next Step: Ask them questions about their view of God and spirituality. Don't get defensive or argumentative.

OPEN



Your friend may become aware of their emotional or spiritual needs and may never have considered how God can meet them.

Next Step: Ask them how they want to grow personally and how God might help their growth. Offer to pray with them.

SEEKING



Your friend is open to exploring Jesus but they don't know how to seek Jesus for answers.

Next Step: Focus their quest: “If you could ask Jesus one question that would help you trust Him, what would you ask?”

FOLLOWING



Your friend has been exploring Jesus. They might be ready to become followers of Jesus.

Next Step: Ask them “Can I share how someone becomes a follower of Jesus?” Share the gospel and invite them to put their trust in Jesus.

Step 2: Listening Prayer

YOUR FIELDS ARE RIPE FOR HARVEST

1. Ask God, "Who are 2 non-Christian friends in whom you want me to focus my prayer and energy?" Write their names below:

2. Pray for 1 minute: ask God, "How do you want me to pray for them? How might I invest in these friendships?"
3. Ask the Holy Spirit, "Help me to pray daily for these friends."

Step 3: Thresholds

DISCERN

Read the 5 thresholds descriptions. Guess which threshold might describe them. Write their name by that threshold.

TRUSTING _____

CURIOUS _____

OPEN _____

SEEKING _____

FOLLOWING _____

Step 4: Commitment

Because I want to see my friends and grow toward new faith, I commit myself to prayer, partnership, and practical steps to help them grow toward Jesus.

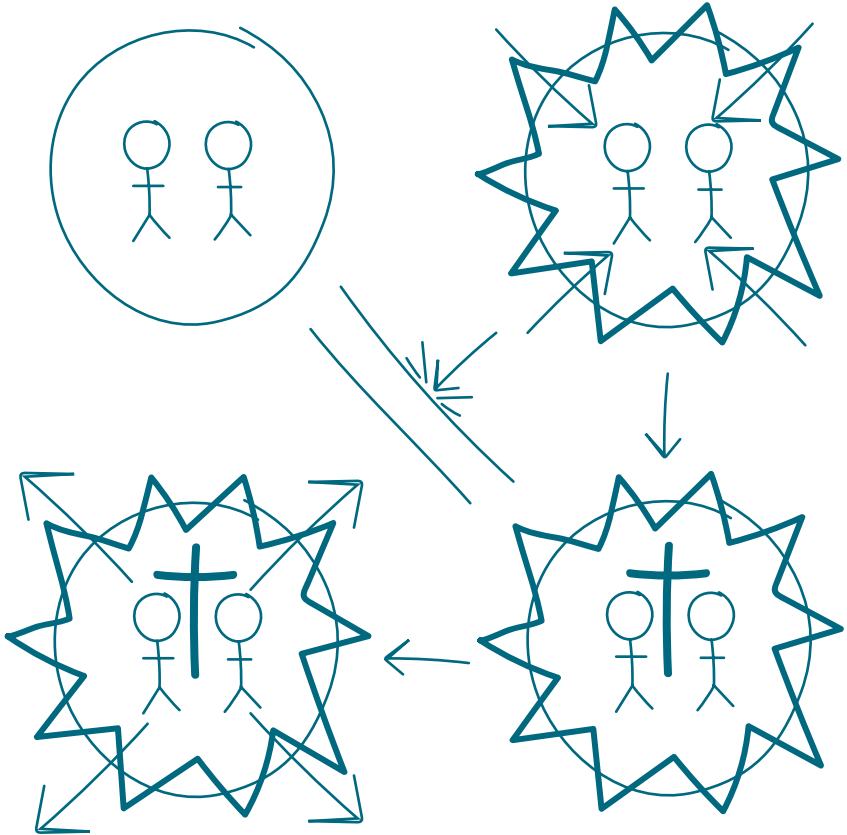
I commit to pray _____ times a week, starting on _____.

I commit to accountability with my prayer partner _____.

I commit to my **NEXT STEP:**

The Big Story

For more resources on how to share the big story, check out evangelism.intervarsity.org/resource/share-big-story



YOUR TABOOR

Building Trust with
your Unconvinced
Friends

At The Table

Matthew 9:9-13

⁹ As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. ¹⁰ While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹² On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³ But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

SINNERS

JESUS

MATTHEW

Fill in the
blanks:
Based on
the passage,
who else
was sitting at
Jesus' table?

Why do you think these
people trusted/ate with
Jesus?

How do you think the
disciples are feeling
eating with tax collectors
and sinners?

What would it have
sounded like if you
were at this meal?
Would you hear
swearing? Coarse
jokes? How would
you experience
that?

Your Table

Trust Inventory List (1 point for each "yes")

- Have they ever been real with me when they are sad or stressed?
- Do we ever just have fun together?
- Do you ever ask each other for advice?
- Do you share your personal problems with them?
- Do you intentionally spend time with each other on a regular basis?

Reference: pg. 39 of "I Once Was Lost"

Who is at your table?

Take out your network map and think about who you want at your table. Write down their names and their "trust inventory" score in box one:



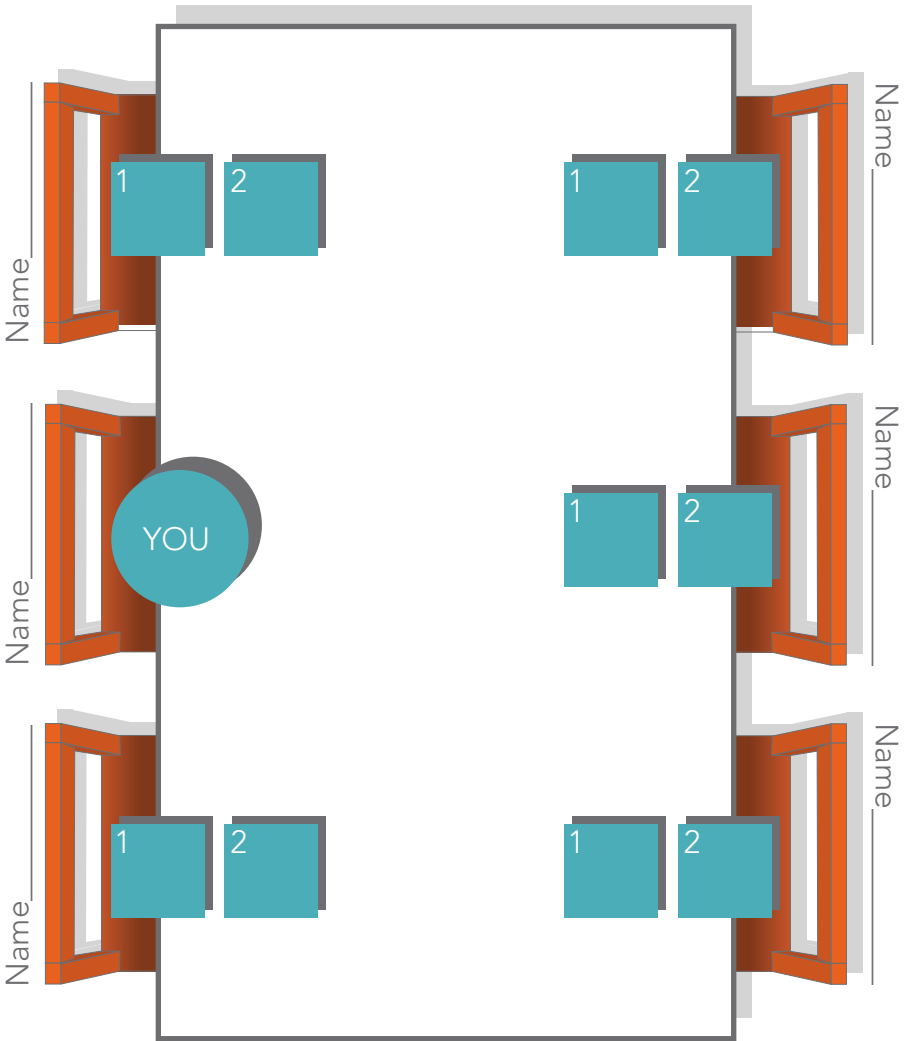
Then, pick some trust-building activities to do with them. Afterwards, put the new "trust inventory" score in box two:



Common Trust Breakers Do you do any of these?

- You cringe when someone swears around you.
- You make judgmental comments based on what your friend shares.
- You ask people to change their language around you. ("you shouldn't use that word.")
- You interrupt your friends when they are sharing their problems. Are you quick to give advice?

Discuss: What are ways you can build trust? (i.e. pay attention to them as they talk, ask questions from what they share)



Connect the Dots

It takes more than one person to make a community. Are there ways that you can help build connections between your friends? How can they grow in TRUST with each other?

PAU
PRINTING
OFF

It is our joy to welcome you to the InterVarsity family!

You have been a part of starting a movement of God on your campus and in a few weeks, you will take the important step of hosting a Launch Gathering. Over the next two sessions you will plan a launch gathering where you will invite your friends to hear about your InterVarsity community and hear the stories of how God is moving in and through you! This step-by-step plan will guide you through the process of preparing for your launch.



Your
Story



Witness



Launch
Party

To any new believers in your group, welcome to the family of faith! We consider this a team effort. Welcome to the team! We believe that every believer is adopted into God's family and invited to be a witness and a host. This pattern of witnessing and starting new Encounter Groups will be at the heart of your community. Today, we would like to focus on the family of God.

John 9:6-25, 35-38

⁶ After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. ⁷ "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. ⁸ His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?"

⁹ Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "I am the man." ¹⁰ "How then were your eyes opened?" they asked. ¹¹ He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam

**But he
himself
insisted,
'I am
the man.'**

and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see." ¹² "Where is this man?" they asked him. "I don't know," he said. ¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴ Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵ Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So they were divided. ¹⁷ Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied,

“He is a prophet.”¹⁸ They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man’s parents.¹⁹ “Is this your son?” they asked. “Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?”

²⁰ “We know he is our son,” the parents answered, “and we know he was born blind.²¹ But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don’t know. Ask him. He

**He is
a prophet**

is of age; he will speak for himself.”²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.²³ That was why his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”²⁴ A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. “Give glory to God by telling the truth,” they said. “We know this man is a sinner.”²⁵ He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t

**One thing
I do know.
I was blind
but now
I see!**

know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!”³⁵ Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”³⁶ “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in

him.”³⁷ Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.”³⁸ Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.

Here we have a story about a man that has been blind since birth (imagine the hardships that caused) who encounters Jesus. Jesus miraculously heals the man's sight, which leads to his worship and following of Christ. At first, he is fuzzy on who Jesus is. But the more people ask, and the more he explains, the more passion and clarity arises about Jesus. By the end of the chapter, he sees and worships Jesus fully. He is transformed as he tells his story. We hope this is true for all of us. We need to tell our story for our own good and our friends need to hear our stories!

Discuss

1. Read the passage aloud.
2. This man has a series of very intense experiences in this chapter. Describe his encounter with Jesus.
3. What else happens to the man in this chapter?
4. Everyone has an opinion about this man's healing. Describe how each group reacts to his healing.
5. He is different at the end of the chapter. What internal and external transformations have taken place in this man's life?
6. What do you like about Jesus in this chapter?

Your Story

There are many kinds of faith stories. If you are a new believer, please tell the story of how you decided to follow Jesus. If you have been following Jesus for a while and have recently joined InterVarsity, tell a story of how Jesus has shaped you this semester. If you are the student planter(s), please tell the story of how Jesus lead you to plant this new campus.

BEFORE

Many things shape and define us. Begin with 2-3 sentences that describe your life before making a commitment to Jesus. Before joining InterVarsity. Before deciding to plant.

ENCOUNTER

Write 2-3 sentences about how God is working in your life.

TODAY

How does God's love change how you view yourself and your identity? How are you different? How does following Jesus shape how you live and how you see your future?

RESPOND ACTIVELY

Solidify Your Faith - Reflective Prayer:

Take 30 seconds to ask God to solidify your identity in Jesus. "God, what do you want me to know about being your child?"

Live Your Faith

We tell the story of Jesus through our actions and character. What practical steps can you take this week to share the story of Jesus with our life (deeds) living out your new faith and obedience to Jesus.

Tell Your Story

Think of a few people who should hear your story.

Reflective Prayer: "God, who do you want me to share my story with this week?"

DEBRIEF

You just finished telling your story. How was this worksheet for you? How are you feeling?

Next week we will move on to the next step, WITNESS. Witness is when you invite your friends to the launch party where they will hear some of the stories your group created. They will have an opportunity to consider joining your InterVarsity movement and have a chance to explore faith for themselves.

Witness

We all bear witness to what we love. If you see a movie you like, you talk about it. Same is true for faith in Jesus. As God works in us, we talk about it. We do not need to be “faith experts” in order to talk about what God is doing in our lives. How has this past week of following Jesus been? What practical steps were you able to take this week to share the story of Jesus?

In this session we will grow as witnesses to what God is doing in our lives and in the movement we have started. We will also plan our launch party.

Jesus has been crucified and raised from the dead. Now he appears to his disciples one last time before ascending back into heaven.

Last words are important. They generally emphasize what you want someone to do/remember. We typically say “I love you” as we leave, reminding people about what is important. Jesus’ last words are important as well. He gives those who have chosen to follow him clear instructions about what they are to do.

What is Jesus communicating by his last words? How does this apply to us?

Acts 1:8

“⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

One way a new believer is a witness in scripture comes from Matt. 9:9-13. Matthew, a tax collector (which were generally regarded with disdain) had decided to follow Jesus with his life. Matthew wanted to share his new faith decision with his friends, so he threw a party and invited folks to meet Jesus. Let's look at the story:

Matthew 9:9-13

⁹As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he said to him, and Matthew got up and followed him. ¹⁰While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹²On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.¹³But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Launch Party

Students at UC Bakersfield-Delano Campus started an InterVarsity movement at their school. Before their launch party, two students decided to follow Jesus! These new believers and other Christians who were a part of InterVarsity wanted to see a movement of God on their campus. At their launch party, 20 of their friends and classmates heard stories of how God was moving at their school and stories of new faith.

Would you like to take the step that Matthew did in the Bible and the students at Delano did and host a party where your friends can join the movement and explore faith in Jesus?

LET'S PLAN THE PARTY

1. Decide as a group who will share at the launch party.

A couple ideas:

- a student planter sharing why they came to campus
- a story of God working in your life
- a risk of faith you have taken
- a new believer sharing their faith

Those who are sharing should take time to add more detail to the story they started writing out last week. Make sure to practice with someone from this group before the party.

2. Let's brainstorm a list of your non-Christian and Christian friends whom you want to invite to the launch party.
3. Where and when will you have the party?
4. Will you have food? What will you do to have fun and bond with new people at the party?

TEXT TEMPLATES

If you will be sharing your story you have a great opportunity to personally invite your friends.

Hey __ I wanted to invite you to come hear me share about a very important event in my life. I recently made a new faith spiritual decision. As one of my closest friends, it would mean a lot if you were able to come. I'll spend some time sharing about my faith journey with God and you'll even be able to meet some of my friends. Hope you can make it!

I wanted to invite you to come hear me talk about a very important event in my life. I will share about a recent spiritual decision I made. I would be honored if you would consider joining me on____ as I talk about how I've come to understand God and our relationship to him. It will be a fun environment where you can meet new folks and ask questions about spiritual matters if you have them.

Hey ! So tomorrow I will be sharing about my faith journey in the small group Bible study I attend, and as I was thinking about who I would want there, your name came to mind. If you're available and free at ___pm, it would mean a lot if you could come hear me share my own story. Is that something you would be down for? Let me know! :D

Hi! Guess what? Tonight at the on-campus Bible study I attend I'm going to share about a big life decision I made this semester. I would love for my friends and community to be there! It's going to be today at ___pm at _____. I hope to see you there :)

PARTY PLANNING GUIDE

PARTY ELEMENT	TIME
Earlier That day	
Arrive and Set up	30-60 min
Guests Arrive and Hang Out	15 min
Welcome	2 min
Fun	5-20 min
Transition to Testimonies	10 min
Testimonies	15 min
Invite Guests to Respond	5 min
Collect Contact Cards or Sign Up Sheet	5 min
Thank Everyone for Coming	1 min

NOTES

Buy or order food
Gather supplies (plates, plasticware, clean up supplies, speakers for music, etc.)

Think about what people will see when they first arrive
Start Music
Set out Food

Have people ready to welcome

Have a student officially welcome and transition the group to the next thing

Host a game or ice breaker. The goal is to help new folks meet each other and InterVarsity members

Welcome and have people get food and take seats

Introduce Each Testimony
-New believer
-Christian student from the new campus
-Student planter

-Invite to Lead the Movement
-Invite to Explore and Grow by joining an Encounter Group

Invite people to go out after the party to bond with new people.

Encounters With Jesus



Who is this guy?

John 1:35-51

Page 42

Shocking!

John 2:1-11

Page 46

#Micdrop

Luke 19:1-10

Page 50

Searching

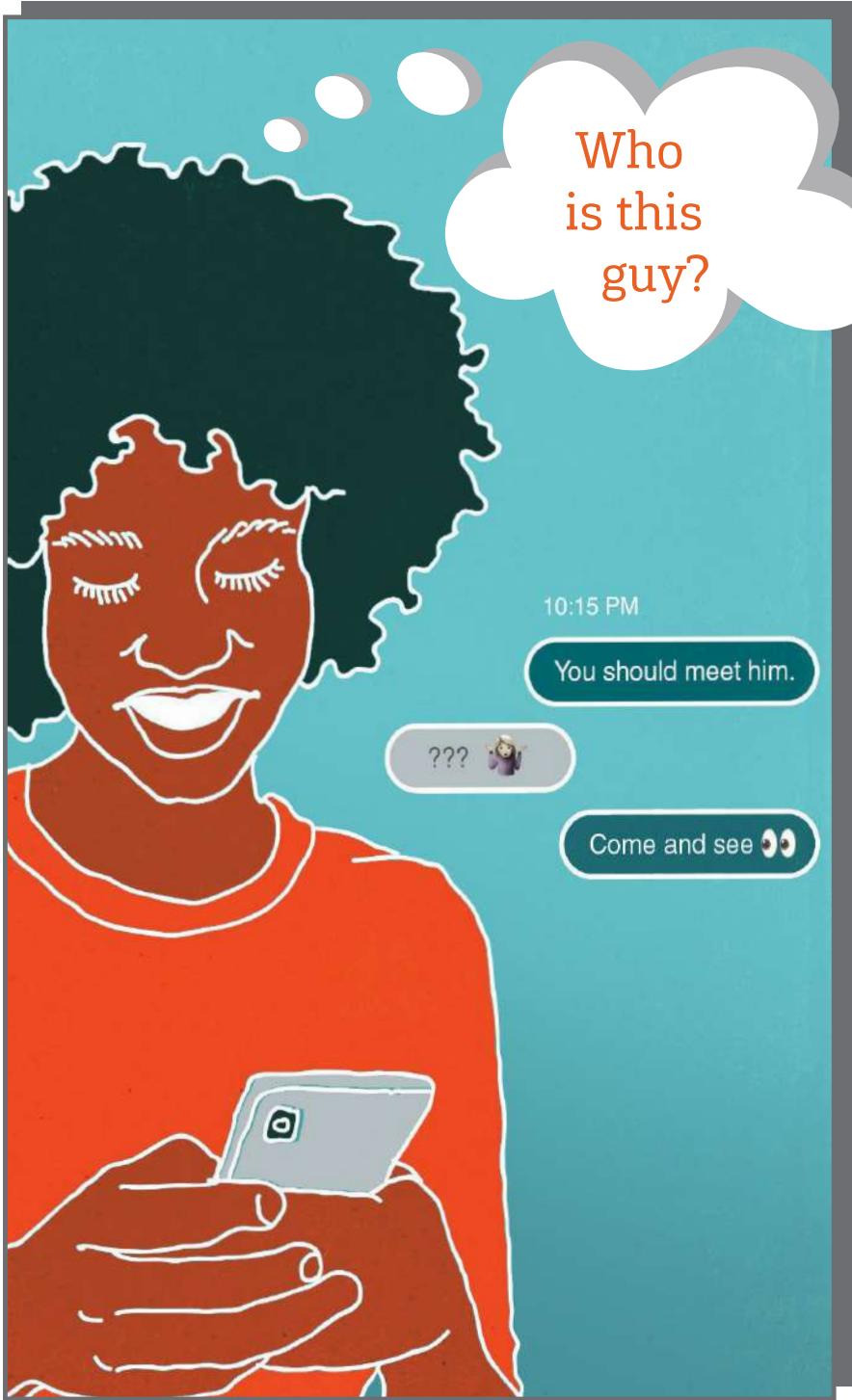
Luke 15:11-24

Page 54

#JustGo

Luke 14:15-24

Page 58



Who is this guy?

10:15 PM

You should meet him.

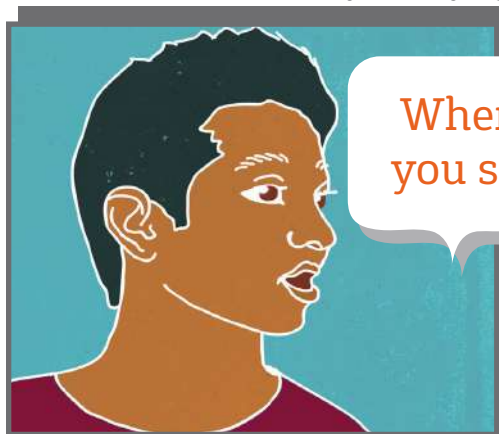
???

Come and see 👁️



John 1:35-51

³⁵ The next day John was there again with two of his disciples.
³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"
³⁷ When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus.
³⁸ Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"³⁹



Where are you staying?

"and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.⁴⁰

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus.⁴¹ The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ).

⁴² And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter). ⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee.


Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."

⁴⁴ Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Beth-



Nazareth?

saida. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." ⁴⁶ "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip. ⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is



an Israelite in whom there is no deceit." ⁴⁸ "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹ Then Nathanael declared, "Rab-

bi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel." ⁵⁰ Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that." ⁵¹ He then added, "Very truly I tell you, you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on' the Son of Man."

Starting a Jesus Movement

We want to start a Jesus movement on this campus in which skeptics, seekers and Christians are welcome to come and see Jesus for themselves. Jesus' movement goes viral in this passage (and continues today through us).

Discuss

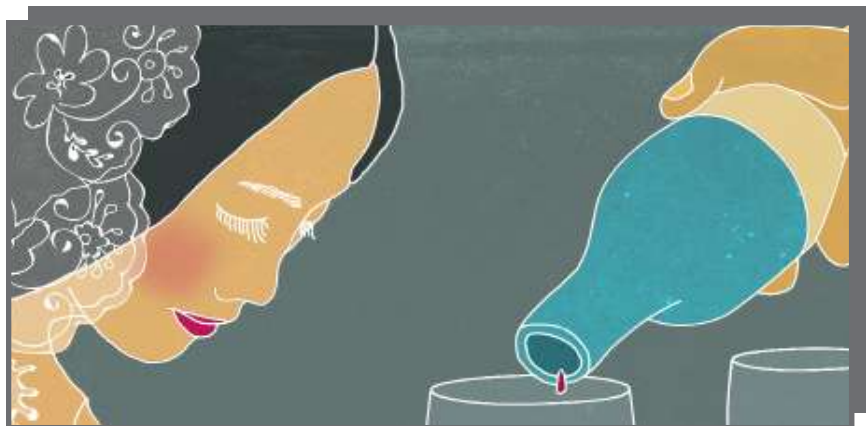
1. Jesus invites seekers to spend the day getting to know him. If you spent the day with Jesus, what would you ask him? Why?
2. Andrew and Nathanael have very different reactions. Would you say you're more curious like Andrew or skeptical like Nathanael? Why?

Apply

1. What do you like about Jesus in this passage? Jesus interacts with each person uniquely, knowing what each of us needs in order to trust him and follow him with our whole lives. Seeking Jesus is an investment of time and energy. What do you need to know about Jesus in order to follow him with your whole life?
2. Part of seeking Jesus is inviting friends to seek him as well. Why do you think people are so eager to introduce their friends to Jesus? From the very start, Jesus' movement spread through relationships. Let's live out this John 1 story today! List names of people you would like to share this story with and invite to join us next time.

Shocking!





John 2:1-11

¹ On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ² and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."⁴ "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."⁶ Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.⁸ Then he told



them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so,⁹ and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside¹⁰ and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."¹¹ What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.



Discuss

In this culture, hospitality was a top value. It would be a great dishonor to run out of food or wine.

1. Turning water into wine is probably the last thing you would expect from someone like Jesus. Interestingly, it caused the disciples to put their trust in him. Why? They likely had new questions about Jesus as a result. What new questions do you have about faith or Jesus?

2. A pool full of top-notch wine is more than enough for this wedding. Why do you think Jesus makes so much? And why such excellent wine? What does this reveal about Jesus and his generosity?

Apply

1. Jesus responds to scarcity. Where in your life are you “running out of wine” or feeling empty?

2. Jesus wants to show us how good he is by pouring his Spirit into the places of weakness in our lives. Would you like to ask Jesus to meet a need in your life?

3. As followers of Jesus, we emulate his actions. This week, do one of these 3 acts of generosity (or come up with your own). Invite people you meet to join you next week.

- a. Give out candy and chips
- b. Buy a bunch of blue books or scantrons to give out during midterms
- c. Give out cans of sodas and bottles of gatorade on a hot day.

#Middrop





Luke 19:1-10

¹ Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ² A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³ He wanted to see who Jesus was,



but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. ⁵ When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immedi-

ately. I must stay at your house today." ⁶ So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. ⁷ All the people saw this

began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner." ⁸ But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheat-



ed anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Today salvation and has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."



Discuss

Jesus calls Zacchaeus by name and gets into his world by having lunch with him. Jesus is great at building trust with us. This trust-building lunch is a God moment in Zacchaeus's life. And this moment grows into a movement when Zacchaeus turns away from his selfishness and restores all that he had taken from his community.

1. Imagine the city of Jericho getting back 4x what they gave up. How might the people of Jericho view Jesus after Zacchaeus's transformation?
2. What surprises you about how Jesus interacts with Zacchaeus?

Apply

1. Just like he did with Zacchaeus, Jesus wants to build trust with all of us. He wants to call you by name. This week, ask Jesus daily to build trust with you.
2. Jesus wants to transform all of our selfish habits (including how we spend our money) and make us more like himself. Take a moment for brief listening prayer. What is one habit you would like Jesus to transform?
3. We are also sent to be trust builders. Who do you know on campus with whom you can build trust? Take a risk and be a friend to others. Text someone you know to get a meal this week and build trust with them.

Searching



Luke 15:11-24

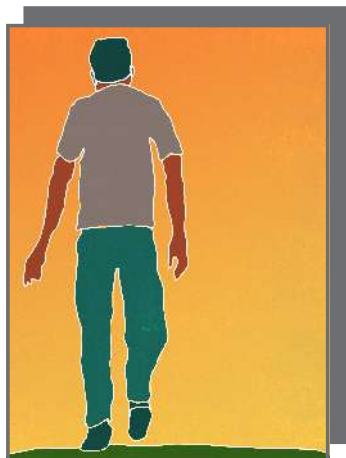
¹¹ Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in



wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶

He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like





one of your hired servants.’²⁰ So he got up and went to his father. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.²¹ “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven

and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’²² “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate.²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.



Discuss

1. The younger son demands his inheritance while his dad is still alive. How does he view his dad?
2. When he hits rock bottom, he wants to return home, but as a servant. How might a servant get treated?
3. What do you like about how the father responds to his son?
4. Jesus tells this story to describe how much God loves us. Where are you in the story?
 - Far from God
 - Hitting rock bottom and pondering returning
 - Walking back toward God
 - Home in God's arms

Apply

1. Coming home to the father means becoming a follower of Jesus. Let's take a look at what it means to follow Jesus (Share the Big Story)
2. We hope our friends experience God's love too. Think of two friends with whom you can share this story. Can you text them a photo of it now?

#JustGo



Luke 14:15-24

¹⁵ When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God."¹⁶ Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. ¹⁷ At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had

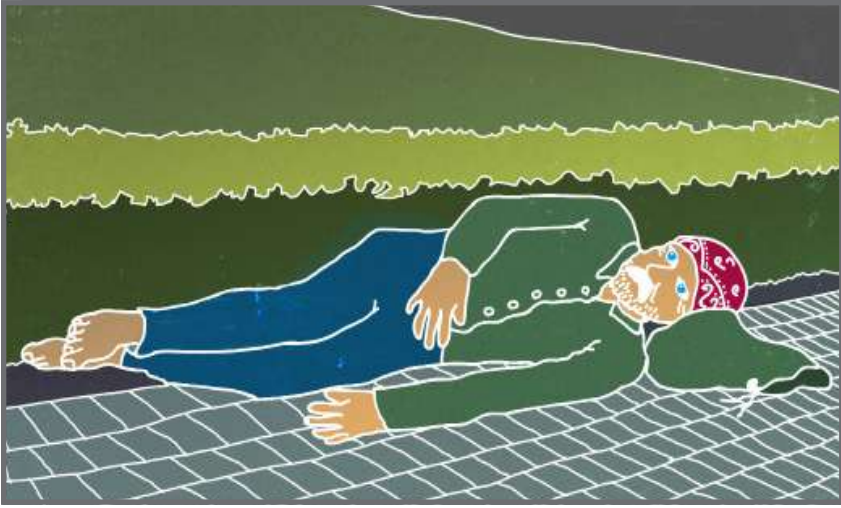
**Yeah....
Can't make it.**



been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'¹⁸ "But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.'¹⁹ "Another said, 'I have just bought five

yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.'²⁰ "Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'²¹ "The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of





the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’²² “‘Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’²³ Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full.’²⁴ I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’”



Discuss

1. How do you prepare to host a big party?
2. The servant is sent to call together the guests who already RSVP'd "yes" to the party. Why do you think they say yes and then say no? The oxen will be there tomorrow. How would you feel if you were the master of the party?
3. Why does the master send the servant out two more times to fill the banquet?
4. Some people view themselves as open-minded, but when it comes time to act, they become closed. The first invitees say that they want to go to the banquet, but change their mind. The second round of guests were more open to the invitation, and they experienced all the master had to offer. Why are the second and third round of people more open and responsive?

Apply

1. Are you open to God meeting a real need in your life? What need would you like God to meet?
2. How can you be like the servant, and invite people to check out God? Write down a list of people you know on campus. Do brief listening prayer. Who will you focus on inviting this week?

Grow

Is it time to grow the Jesus community on campus? If yes, get ready to host a launch party. Go to our GROW phase ([LINK](#)). use this guide to host your own party and invite others to explore God with you.