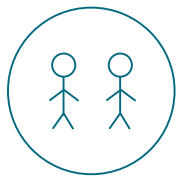


# Small Group Invitation to Faith



## Prepare the group for a next step

*"We don't just want to talk about the Bible, we want to live it out. If you have been following Jesus for a while, I would like us to consider responding by joining the mission and sharing Jesus' good news. More on that in a minute. If you are considering following Jesus, I would like to give you an opportunity to take a step. First, let me share what it means to be a Christian and follow Jesus, and then see how we each may want to respond."*



### Read the Big Story

#### DESIGNED FOR GOOD

In Genesis we see that God created the world to be a perfect place. He created us for right relationship with him, with each other, and with creation. Things were perfect!



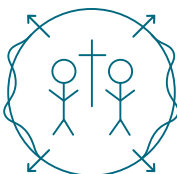
#### DAMAGED BY EVIL

We all long for that kind of right relationship with each other. But we thought we could run our lives better than God. Instead of placing God at the center, we put our own selfish desires at the center. And as a result, everything fell apart. We broke our relationship with God, with each other, and with all creation. Today we live in a broken, messed-up world. We have war, depression, child abuse, suicide, drug addiction, school shootings, etc. Fortunately, God didn't leave us in this mess.



#### RESTORED FOR BETTER

God relocated into our world in the person of Jesus. Jesus took all our brokenness onto himself. By dying on the cross and rising again, he broke the power of our broken world. If we're willing to let God take his place at the center again, and if we are willing to trust Jesus with our lives, we can be restored to a right relationship with God. But that's not the end of the story.



#### SENT TO HEAL

Once we choose to follow Jesus, he sends us into the world to bring his love, power, and justice wherever we go. We get to live and declare this good news.

## Who's at the center?

But, we have to make a decision. Will we live with ourselves at the center of the story or will we let God become the center of our story? In order to be sent to heal, we must turn from our selfishness and trust Jesus with our lives. This is what the Bible means when it says, "Repent of your sins." If we are at the center of the story, our attempts to heal will be warped by our brokenness, which is not very effective. What would it take for you to trust Jesus with your life?

First, this means accepting that through the cross and resurrection, we can be different people and receive a change of heart both now and for eternity. And that means making him the center of your life and following his leadership for you. Are you ready to do that?

Second, we join in his mission on campus and in the world to live and share his good news. That might mean telling a friend about Jesus. Are you ready to do that? How do you anticipate that following Jesus will shape your life?

## Ponder your response

It's important for you to interact with God about this. Let's take a moment of silence. Ask God if he is inviting you to follow him. (20 seconds of silence) Let's each share how we are feeling or how we want to respond today.

Thank you. Let's get a follow up conversation.