



SMALL GROUP LEADERS: - Remember the C of COMMISSION

Please pray with us during this key season of the January to help people “connect” to life in Christ. Connection means more than attendance; it means beginning a journey that **follows Jesus**. Please pray for people to connect, and pray that God will bring more people to your small group or allow you to help people find the group that is best for them.

ALSO: You will hopefully receive a package with “Ask Me About My Small Group” buttons and invitational cards. Please wear a button during January weekend services at your campus, and help foster conversations of connection with the cards, even if you group is full. **MOST PEOPLE IN OUR SERVICES ARE NOT IN A GROUP. Let's change that!**

Ice Breaker (Choose one to answer):

*When have you witnessed someone acting very courageous? What happened?

Into the Word:

*What was the biggest takeaway for you in this message?

Read John 9:1-38 as a group.

a) What was the big offense that caused the religious leaders to question this miracle? What specifically did Jesus do that upset them?

Teaching Tip: Jesus repeatedly did things that broke the rules established by the religious establishment. He knew these rules were not from God, and in fact were attempts to establish self-righteousness.

b) What do you think the religious leaders hoped to accomplish by inquiring of the healed man, and then by his parents?

Teaching Tip: The religious leaders could not accept a violation of their rules, and were desperately trying to find grounds to “dismiss” this miracle as either demonic, or a fraud.

c) The healed man definitely “stood up” for Jesus and what happened to him, and it cost him as he would have been put out of the synagogue, the center of Jewish life. But he didn’t have to. Why do you think the healed man responded the way he did?

Teaching Tip: God is calling us to believe in His goodness and His character, and the healed man was defending God’s character and nature: that only God could have done this, and therefore Jesus had to be a good man. God would not reward an evil person with such a miracle. It took great courage to stand up for what he believed.

d) Where might God be asking you to stand up for His character and name and trust Him in the face of naysayers, or people doubting His goodness?

Apply the Word:

a) What are some areas in our lives where we commonly struggle to trust God and live out faith?

b) What does opposition to faith look like in our world today? What does it look like in your life specifically?

c) If every test of our character & faith is an opportunity, what are some pending opportunities in your life that you foresee?

d) How can we as a group encourage and support each other in these areas?

Prayer:

Please as a group PRAY for Group Link at your campus, and pray for opportunities to talk to people, and that God would help you help people CONNECT to small groups, Baptism, ministry teams, etc. These steps of involvement will help people grow closer to Jesus.

Please commit to praying as a group for the following:

- *That God would give us open doors with lost people so we can help them find Jesus.*
- *That God would help us connect more people **to Small Groups** to help them Grow.*
- *That God would help us live for Him this year, and throw off anything holding us back.*