



Rock Bridge Small Group Discussion Guide Fresh Start – Part 4 LEADER GUIDE

Small Group Leaders: Are you preparing for the Be Like Jesus Campaign?

What if we ALL as a church clearly demonstrated Jesus to our communities? What if we really lived, loved, and served the way Jesus did? Our communities would be CHANGED!

Starting September 8th, we will be asking EVERYONE to participate in a small group for six weeks, as we corporately study the life of Jesus and encourage each other through biblical community to be more like Jesus. We are called to make disciples, and that is what we desire to do!

Here is how you can help! As a current small group leader:

- **PRIORITIZE** - As a group, please prioritize the campaign, and plan on meeting every week **for six weeks**. We will still have first Wednesday, and it will be a part of the campaign, so plan on coming as a group.
- **MAKE ROOM** - Does your group have room for more people, at least for just the six weeks? Contact your campus groups representative and let them know.
- **STEP UP** - If any of you have led a group before or have thought about leading before, help us lead or even facilitate a group for the six weeks!
- **PRAY** – Pray for our church and Invite people to join your group! Invite people to your group and encourage the disconnected to take a step!

Ice Breaker:

*What is your favorite part about fall? What are you looking forward to the most about the season?

Into the Word: Read Acts 9:1-22

Leader Help: Similar to Jesus healing the paralytic, Paul was healed through a revelation of Jesus. However, his healing process came from a revelation of who Jesus was, and that Paul in fact was “on the wrong team.”

a) Why was Paul doing what he was doing to persecute the church? What was going on in him?

Teaching Tip: Jesus clearly taught that after His fulfillment of scriptures and after the cross that the Temple would no longer be needed. The Temple was THE center of religious life for the Jew of that day, and this was a very difficult message. Paul actually thought he was serving God by destroying Christ followers.

b) While not documented, the church in that day was certainly praying for Paul. What do you think their prayers were like, and how was Jesus’ appearance to Paul an answer to those prayers?

Teaching Tip: The church most certainly prayed for Paul to see and have a revelation of Jesus unto salvation. Jesus’ certainly answered that prayer, and revealed to Paul his true spiritual position, that he was in fact BLIND, and serving the wrong God.

c) The church played several roles in this story. They were the ones being persecuted and they forgave. They were the ones praying, and God miraculously answered them, turning their enemy

into a tremendous ally. Annanias also went as a brother to Paul, courageously showing mercy to Paul so he could be healed. How can WE as the church show similar love to people around us? *Leader Tip: Help people see that we MUST love our enemies and pray for them and be prepared to be hated and disliked from the very people we are called to reach.*

D) Jesus clearly tells us to pray for our enemies, and to bless them. He says this because their need is spiritual (separation from Him) that goes beyond any other situation. Is there a difficult person in your life that you consider an enemy? How are you praying for them?

Apply & Obey the Word:

1) How is the church and community so crucial to our lives? Why was community so important for the paralytic, and also for Paul in his transformation?

2) We all have life situations going on right now that we think are our biggest need, but often the real need is deeper and spiritual. What might be your deeper need right now? Courage? Knowing God's love more? Wisdom? Where do you need more of God?

3) Share specifically about your "fresh start" in this season, and what God has been doing in you. Give a testimony of how He has been moving in you.

Prayer Time:

a) *Pray as a group for the Be Like Jesus Campaign beginning next week. Pray for people to connect to community and be transformed!*