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Hey small group leaders! In our current series, “**Navigate**”, we’re discovering that in an age of endless information, true wisdom is not always available. This series is about discernment: learning to filter voices, making wise decisions, and aligning with God’s truth. Through passages about the life of Solomon, we’ll explore how to think critically, seek wisdom, and renew our minds in a noisy world. When we cultivate discernment, we don’t just survive—we thrive in the amazing life God has for us!

Thank you for shepherding a group of people to Love God, Love Others, and Live Sent!

NEED A RESOURCE, HAVE A QUESTION, OR WANT TO HAVE A CONVERSATION?
Let us know how we can help! Contact your groups director or discipleship@rockbridge.cc

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“You find that the things you let go of while following Jesus were the things that were going to destroy you in the end.”

[Francis Chan]

LEADER RESOURCES || **Leader Note** We do our best to equip, empower, and encourage you to shepherd your group well. Access a resource by clicking on the underlined title and share them with your group!

- **Passage Summary**
 - Luke 9 follows Jesus as He resolves to go to Jerusalem and face death. His determination to make this journey helps us see the depth of His love, the worth of who He is, and the cost of being His disciple (follower). This passage (v. 51-62) clarifies the value of walking with Jesus as His disciple. Jesus illustrates this clarity and the type of values that characterize a person who decisively decides to follow Him.
- **Luke Ch. 9 Commentary & Why Did Jesus "Set His Face"?**
 - Use the commentary and short article for background and encouragement. These would be good resources to share before you gather.
- **Is Your Hand to the Plow?**
 - This would be a good resource to share with your group after you gather.

ENGAGE & CONNECT || **Leader Note** The goal for the icebreaker is to prepare your group for the conversation ahead by connecting with one another’s hearts and building joy together.

When you were a child, what kind of path did you enjoy regularly taking? (i.e. walking to school, around the block to a corner store, through a field to a friend’s house)

BEGIN WITH PRAYER || **Leader Note** Begin your time together thanking God for his presence and praying His word back to Him. Ask a few people to pray, taking a posture of humility and dependence!

Spend a moment praying this passage, beginning your time together in humility and gratitude!

“Show me the right path, O LORD; point out the road for me to follow. Lead me by your truth and teach me, for you are the God who saves me. All day long I put my hope in you.”

[Psalm 25:4-5]

BIG IDEA || Leader Note Read this aloud so your group knows the theme of today’s reading and discussion.

As a disciple of Jesus, you cannot be indecisive. The way of Jesus is to be our way of life!

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION || Leader Note Have people read aloud the passage as instructed. Your role is to FACILITATE, so keep your group moving along, encourage people to share, and look for opportunities to point out the grace and glory of God! Here are two reminders: 1) Every question does not have to be answered ... go where the Spirit leads! 2) Answers do not have to be read aloud ... they’re for guidance!

Have someone read Luke 9:51-62. Consider having another person read it again in a different translation.

1. In v. 51, it says that Jesus "determined to go to Jerusalem" (some translations say "set his face"). What does this reveal about Jesus' mission? *Jesus was committed to fulfilling God’s plan, knowing it would lead to His suffering and death. This highlights His obedience to the Father and sacrificial love for people.*
2. How did Jesus correct James’ and John's response to the Samaritan rejection? How do you find yourself responding to people around you like James and John at times? *James and John wanted to call down fire on the Samaritans, but Jesus rebuked them, emphasizing mercy over judgment and teaching His disciples to embody grace and patience.*
3. In the sermon we heard, *“God is never the source of confusion or lack of clarity.”* When in your life did you mistake confusion or a lack of clarity for the voice of God? Let’s be honest with one another!
4. Why can indecision be dangerous in our spiritual lives? How have you been indecisive lately? *Answers will vary: indecision can lead to spiritual stagnation, missed opportunities, and a hardened heart. Fear and procrastination often prevent believers from fully committing to Christ.*
5. “Someday Syndrome” is the tendency to postpone spiritual decisions. How can we recognize and break free from this mindset? *Answers will vary: regularly evaluating our priorities, stepping out in faith, and asking God for courage. Surrounding oneself with accountable believers can also prompt action.*
6. The third disciple hesitated by looking back. What is a “plow” in your life that you may need to leave behind to follow Christ fully? *This is a good opportunity to go first!*
7. How does understanding Jesus’ unwavering resolve to go to the cross deepen your motivation to follow Him? *Answers will vary: knowing that Jesus willingly faced suffering out of love for humanity inspires us to respond with gratitude and commitment, reflecting His love in our actions.*
8. We should be decisive in following Jesus without hesitation. What practical step(s) can we take over the next few weeks to live out our faith more boldly? *Answers will vary by group: engage in community service, evangelism, or intentional acts of kindness. Studying Scripture and praying for boldness can also guide these efforts, especially as we head towards Easter!*

9. In the sermon we heard, *“Jesus makes a pre-decision which empowered Him to make other decisions.”* What is a pre-decision you can make this week that will empower you to make other decisions? Consider your season and stage of life, work situations, family and relationships, and anything other areas of life that this would benefit!

STEP OF OBEDIENCE || **Leader Note** *This is an opportunity for people to put into practice what the Spirit is inviting them to do and live in obedience to God for the sake of love! You can encourage your group to be accountable to one another and use these to follow up with one another throughout the week.*

Here’s the bottom line → disciples of Jesus make decisions AND love others like Jesus would if He were in their place! *What decision do you need to apply this truth to this week?*

Give your group a few moments to reflect on their answers to the questions above. Then have your group answer the question aloud. Feel free to separate into smaller groups of 3-4 for this question.

PRAYER FOCUS || **Leader Note** *We want to commit to praying for OTHERS as a unified church who is dependent upon God for everything. Be intentional about saving at least 5-10 minutes for prayer at the end of your gathering each week to pray together. Pray for one another as well as the prompts below!*

**Over the next few months, we will include a short blurb about the Red Letter Challenge, along with a reflection question, so that our church family is encouraged to keep what we experienced last fall in mind.*

Red Letter REMEMBRANCE

BEING → Living for God should come from an overflow of our “being with God”.

- How has “being with God” been for you over the past few months?
- How are you overflowing with the hope, joy, and love of God?