



# NEXT LEVEL

## SESSION 1 - AVAILABILITY

### SERIES BIG IDEA

Next Level friendships help us grow in our relationship with God.

### MESSAGE BIG IDEA

Next Level friendships start with availability.

### SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 4:16, Mark 2:1-12

### ICEBREAKER AND OPENING THOUGHT

Use this time to open your group and break the ice. The second question is designed to help groups become more comfortable with the topic of the day and to engage each other.

### BIBLE DISCUSSION

Read the scripture out loud and allow your group time to think through the questions. There are no wrong answers, but try to find positive examples of ways everyone in your group fits into the body of Christ – be prepared for this in case they can't think of a way for themselves.

### APPLICATION

These are simple questions, yet could have complex responses. Let your group walk through them slowly. We are bombarded constantly with information, text, email alerts, social media updates, news flashes, etc... so fitting people into our lives can feel overwhelming or even impossible sometimes. Encourage everyone to share about their connections with others and tell stories about how a friend made a difference.

Use those stories to jump into brainstorming how we can be used to make a difference. Don't let group end without talking about how we can now engage and interact with people – to be part of how other people join a small group or come to church. In an age of disconnection, an invitation to connection can be deeply appealing and have profound impacts on people's lives.

### CHALLENGE

Spend some time as a group praying for the people in our lives who need next-level friendships. Where can you enter into their lives, even when it's hard? How can you show genuine love and care for them? Pray as a group for those opportunities.