

SESSION 4 - RADICAL CONTRIBUTING

SERIES BIG IDEA

Jesus ushered in a radical way of living where we can enjoy God.

MESSAGE BIG IDEA

Jesus ushered in a radical way of living where we're invited to partner with him in his mission.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 3:13-15; John 14:12

ICEBREAKER & OPENING THOUGHT

These questions are designed to get the group talking and introduce the idea that Jesus has entrusted his mission to us, his followers. Sometimes the idea of being partners with Jesus in his mission can feel irreverent, so as the group explores this idea you may remind them that the New Testament is filled with similar metaphors calling Jesus' followers brothers, heirs, friends (not servants), and sons and daughters of God.

BIBLE DISCUSSION

Encourage your group as they reflect on these passages. Jesus called twelve disciples echoing the twelve tribes of ancient Israel. Jesus was effectively saying that he was starting something brand new, that he was remaking God's people around himself. This meant his disciples were caught up in something truly new and life-changing. They had to learn to think and live in a whole new revolutionary way.

LIFE APPLICATION

The last part of this guide is meant to reflect on how Jesus has entrusted the mission to us. Help the group review the BLESS practices and the last few weeks and let each person discuss how they want to grow in the coming year.

THE B.L.E.S.S. PRACTICES

B - Begin with Prayer: A daily time of prayer is the perfect time to ask God how he might want to expand our life to include others.

L - Listen: Can you imagine the ground we could gain for the kingdom if we would just get better at listening. Just think about the change we would see in our world if instead of vocalizing our differences on Facebook or Twitter, we would just listen. Listen to people's hopes and dreams, their struggles and their fears. God, help us to bless others as we listen to them.

E - Eat: Sharing a meal and asking Jesus to be there is the secret sauce for experiencing community. Jesus ate meals with people all the time. Eating with someone is like putting salt on food. You're giving that relationship flavor. You're helping it to taste even better.

S - Serve: As you pray, listen, eat, and build relationships with those around you, it will become apparent how you can serve them. If you listen carefully enough, people will tell you how you can BLESS them.

S - Story: When the time is right, and I think it will be apparent, share your story of how you found your way back to God. Talk about your struggles, the challenges you've faced, the doubts you've had along the way.

CHALLENGE

This series has been about living a radical upside down as a follower of Jesus. A radical life of Christ-following, meaning we Celebrate our relationship with God by surrendering more and more of our lives to him. We also CONNECT, creating a community where everyone belongs. Finally, we CONTRIBUTE, which is about choosing to bless the people God has put into our lives. How have you been challenged to lead a radical life and in what way do you want to grow this year?