

**MESSAGE BIG IDEA**

Apprentices of Jesus are committed to the practices of Jesus, the “radical minimums” of apprenticeship.

**SCRIPTURE**

Matthew 16:15-18 and Matthew 22:37-40

**ICEBREAKER AND OPENING THOUGHT**

These are designed to get your group talking. Use this as a time to take a ‘temperature reading’ of your group. Everyone could be in different places with their attitudes towards this last year; it’s been complex and challenging and impossible, and yet here we are. Some might be struggling right here, and you won’t necessarily know.

**BIBLE DISCUSSION**

Change the translations you read these verses in if your group has a lot of familiarity with the Bible. Never force someone unwilling to read out loud, but try to get volunteers. Read the scriptures at least twice and give people a chance to think and process before asking the questions.

**LIFE APPLICATION**

We all yearn to be refreshed, but it might be in different ways or different areas of our lives. Some of us might feel uncomfortable sharing, so give space for silence and don’t force anyone to share if they aren’t willing.

Allow people to talk about the hard things, don’t offer easy ‘pat’ answers to their pain, but sit with them in it. Encourage them to think about how they feel love and how others might feel love. How can the Church be a part of that? Challenge them to think about how that connects to their daily practice and their connections inside the Church.

**CHALLENGE**

This year has been tough and challenging. All of us have lived through a global pandemic, highlighting existing racial inequalities and discrimination that have caused us both grief and deep questioning. Reassure people it is normal if they have faced struggle, grief, or have questions about life and faith.