

Radical Minimum Standard

May 4 | Group Guide

Opening questions (20 minutes)

- In his sermon, Dan talked about how Jesus forms us in the context of community. In your journey with Christ, what role has Christian community (or the lack of it) played in your own discipleship?
- Share an example when your thoughts or behaviors were shaped by a group of people you spent time with.
- What especially stood out to you from Dan's sermon on Sunday?

Read Scripture and discuss (25 minutes).

Consider breaking into smaller groups for Scripture and discussion.

Early in His ministry, Jesus drew large crowds who were eager to witness His miracles and listen to His teaching. But as He began to be clearer about the challenges of being His followers, some of those people had second thoughts.

Read John 6:66-69.

- What is Peter's response to Jesus' question?
- Author Mike Breen, quoted by Dan in the sermon, talks about four kinds of discipleship:

- (1) COMPLACENT/COZY - high support, low challenge;
- (2) BORED/APATHETIC - low support, low challenge;
- (3) STRESSED/DISCOURAGED - low support, high challenge; and
- (4) EMPOWERED - high support, high challenge

Which of these best describes your life group? Explain.

Which of these do you, honestly, most desire to be a part of?

- Why do you think the twelve disciples in the above John 6 passage have a different response than the crowds?
- What role do you think the disciples' relationship to Jesus and to each other might play in their response?

Read Acts 2:42-47.

- What appeals to you about this description of the early church in Jerusalem?
- With a spirit of encouragement and gentleness, examine your life group and larger church community in comparison to the discipleship community of believers in Acts 2. What things are similar? Where are the differences?
- How is God inviting you to change how you personally engage in Christian community in light of tonight's conversation?
- In the sermon, Dan shared about the "radical first church" of Acts 2 and compared it to his fictional "lukewarm first church." In what ways are you tempted to give in to more of a lukewarm mindset? How can your life group grow as a radical, disciple-forming, Acts 2 kind of community?

Weekly reflection discussion (10 minutes)

Throughout our Radical Minimum Standard series, we are providing a weekly reflection in which you are invited to take a close look at how Jesus interacted with His disciples. This week's reflection passage is John 4:1-54.

If people in your group engaged with the Week 2 Reflection, you are encouraged to listen to each other's noticings by asking the following questions:

- What did you notice in the text?
- What tension or contrast did you experience between the picture of discipleship in this passage and your own life?
- Was there an invitation to implement in your life?

Be on the lookout for these Weekly Reflections for the remainder of the Radical Minimum Standard Series.

Finish with prayer requests and pray for one another (10 minutes).

Share prayer requests and pray for each other but also spend time praying for ways in which your life group can continue to grow as a disciple-forming community.