



Week Three

Opening Prayers

God, thank you for meeting us here. Help us to hear from you as we look at today's discussion guide and connect with each other. We want to hear what you have for us. Amen.

Talk it Over

The Bible teaches us that God is constantly leading us towards a "next". He meets us where we are and he looks to move us towards the next thing. This is what this series, "Next", is all about.

- Waiting can be hard. Are there times you are humorously, surprisingly, or embarrassing impatient? Tell us about some situations or a specific time you had little patience with waiting.

Let's jump into today's discussion by revisiting our theme verse for this series —

Read Isaiah 43:19 (NIV)

This week we looked at the idea that oftentimes comfort is the enemy of our 'next'. Even if circumstances are difficult, we often prefer to stay with what we know and can depend on instead of moving forward to the unknown of the 'next'. Consequently, even when we make the choice to head towards the 'next', there is no question the "middle" zone between 'here' and 'next' can feel extremely vulnerable.

- What sort of thoughts, fears, and desires mess with your willingness to try new things?
- Tell us about a time you were in the unknown and vulnerable "middle zone".
- Thinking back to the various times you were in the "middle zone" and left waiting for what was next, what do you wish you would have known then?

Let's revisit our theme story for this series again —

Read Luke 5:1-11

This week we looked at three reasons why we can't stay where we are:

1. Because Jesus is in our boat.

Read Matthew 16:25 (New International Version)

If we are living with Jesus — or if he is in our boat — we can trust he will lead us forward into deeper places of surrender and sacrifice. Because of his love for us, Jesus regularly invites us into new ways of living and being. And like we saw in our theme story for this series, Luke 5:1-11, we will need to be interruptible and obedient to Jesus' invitation like Peter was. Even in his doubt, Peter seemed to trust on some real level where Jesus was leading.

(Content continued on the next page.)

- Tell us about a time you felt God inviting you into something new.
- When do you find yourself most inclined to trust God?
- When do you find it hardest to trust God?

2. Because God's plans are bigger than ours.

Read Ephesians 3:20 (The Message)

While God is for us and he is good, we can often start to think that God is in the business of fulfilling our dreams, desires, and wants. What the Bible teaches us is that God, in his ultimate goodness and kindness, desires to fulfill the dreams he has for us.

- Tell us about a time you became aware that you and God had different desires for a particular situation.
- How can we stay open to God's dreams for us?

3. Because the Kingdom of God is always moving.

Read John 5:17 (New Living Translation)

Living with Jesus means being open, aware, and present to God's constant movement in our life. Each of us are invited to live each day aligned and connected to God's loving hand and companionship.

- When is it most difficult for you to embrace change? Why is that the case?
- Have you ever made a choice to not change even though you knew changing was probably the best best idea? Tell us about what held you back and what you learned.
- How do you feel regarding this idea about the Kingdom of God always being on the move? Does it make sense?

This week we ended the talk with the following questions. Consider reviewing these questions are a group:

- When was the last time you let Jesus in your boat? For example, do you believe you let Jesus in your boat last week? Last month?
- When was the last time you were reminded that God's plans for you are bigger than your own?
- Is there any area of life you think God may be asking you to leave where you are?

Closing Prayer

God, help us to be open, aware, and present to what you are doing in our life. We want to be awake to what you are doing and inviting us into. Help us to live aligned and connected with you. Amen.

How To Use this Discussion Guide

The guide is meant to serve you and your group as you intentionally create space to grow in friendship and faith. Use the guide as a tool to help your unique group connect in friendship and grow faith.

With that in mind, consider reviewing the guide before your group to see if some content or questions might resonate more or less with your group. Don't feel pressure to read all the content or to hit all the questions. The guide is not meant to be something you power through for the sake of completing. Pick the content from the guide you feel will help foster friendship and faith for your specific group.

Spend some time praying about your group, preparing your heart, and asking God for wisdom and guidance regarding your specific group.