



## Week Four

### Opening Pray

God, thank you for being here with us. Help us to hear from you and to connect with each other in a life-giving ways. 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.

### Let’s re-read our theme story for this series one more time:

#### Read Luke 5:1-11 (New Living Translation)

This week we started things off by addressing the fact that it’s okay if we don’t know where you are going — as long as we have access to some level of a trustworthy guide or direction.

- Tell us about a few people who’ve served as a trustworthy guide in your life. Think coaches, counselors, mentors, bosses, etc.
- Tell us about a person who you used as guide and later had to pay the price.
- Knowing what you know today, tell us what sort of qualifications make a guide trustworthy.

### In order to be willing to follow we looked at three things we need to leave behind:

#### 1. Fear

##### Joshua 1:9 (New Living Translation)

#### 2. Security

##### Luke 5:9 (New Living Translation) and Exodus 14:12 (New Living Translation)

#### 3. Pride

##### Read Matthew 20:26-28 (New Living Translation)

- Looking at your own heart, which of these three things — fear, security, and pride — often result in the biggest struggle for you?
- Tell us about a time you allowed one of these three things — fear, security, and pride — hold you back?
- Tell us about a time you moved forward despite the fear, security, or pride you were feeling.
- What are some concrete or practical ways we can combat allowing our fear, security, or pride hold us back?

*(Content continued on the next page.)*

**Let's reread our theme verse for this series one more time:**

**Isaiah 43:19 (New International Version)**

Our bottom line for this week's talk was this: Finding our 'next' is as simple as listening to the voice of God and then having the courage to do what God says.

- Is there an area of life you want to see this bottom line come to fruition? Tell us what area of life you are looking to hear God's voice and then hoping to respond with the courage to say 'yes'.
- Tell us about the various ways you have heard God speak to you.
- How are you hearing God speak to you this particular season? If you are in a season where you cannot hear God or you haven't ever encountered God in this way, please tell us about where you are in the process and what you desire.

**Closing Prayer**

God, thank you for being a God who looks to speak to us. Help us to encounter you; we want to hear from you. And please empower us to have the courage to do what you are inviting us into even when it's hard. Amen.

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**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.