

Small Group Guide: In Good Company

Mark 3:7-19 | Seed and Soil Series

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: When you were younger, who was your hero or someone you looked up to? What made them stand out to you?

Sermon Summary

In this message, we explored what it truly means to be a disciple of Jesus. Using Mark 3:7-19, we discovered that discipleship isn't reserved for spiritual "Navy SEALs" but is accessible to ordinary people who are willing to trust and follow Jesus. Jesus appointed 12 disciples who were remarkably ordinary, yet they were called to three essential practices: **presence** (being with Jesus), **proclamation** (sharing about Jesus), and **participation** (joining Jesus in setting people free from darkness).

Key Scripture

Mark 3:14-15 "He appointed 12, whom he also named apostles: to be with him, to send them out to preach, and to have authority to drive out demons."

Discussion Questions

Part 1: Presence - Being With Jesus

1. **What barriers or expectations have you placed on yourself that make you feel unqualified to follow Jesus?** How does the ordinariness of the 12 disciples challenge those barriers?
2. **Read John 17:3.** How does Jesus define eternal life? What does it look like practically to "know" God in your daily routine?

3. **The sermon mentioned that discipleship starts with proximity to Jesus through Scripture, prayer, and the Holy Spirit.** Which of these three is easiest for you? Which is most challenging? Why?
4. **How can we make "being with Jesus" a priority rather than just another item on our to-do list?**

Part 2: Proclamation - Sharing About Jesus

5. **Consider Matthew (the tax collector) and Simon (the Zealot) being on the same team.** What does their inclusion tell us about the diversity Jesus welcomes in His church? How does this challenge or encourage you?
6. **1 Peter 3:15 says to be "ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you."** What is your story of encountering Jesus? If you were to share it in 2-3 minutes, what would you say?
7. **The sermon described evangelism as "one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread."** How does this definition lower the pressure and make sharing your faith feel more accessible?
8. **Who in your life needs to hear about what Jesus has done for you?** What's one practical step you could take this week to share with them?

Part 3: Participation - Joining Jesus' Mission

9. **Jesus gave His disciples authority to drive out demons and confront darkness.** While we may not face literal demon possession, what forms of darkness do you encounter in your community (addiction, injustice, loneliness, deception, etc.)?
10. **The sermon mentioned that Christians throughout history have confronted darkness through orphanages, ending slavery, and fighting for dignity.** What issue breaks your heart? How might God be calling you to participate in bringing freedom?
11. **Serving can be a way to push back darkness—whether through Tabitha's Way, greeting at church, or holding babies in the nursery.** How have you seen "ordinary" service make an extraordinary impact?
12. **Read Colossians 1:13.** How does remembering your own rescue from darkness motivate you to help rescue others?

Part 4: The Call to Follow

13. **The sermon stated: "Jesus is calling you. He didn't take resumes."** How does grace-based calling differ from performance-based religion? How does this affect your view of discipleship?
14. **Read 2 Peter 3:9 and 1 Timothy 2:3-4.** What do these verses tell us about God's heart for people? How should this shape our prayers and actions?
15. **What is one specific way you can respond to Jesus' call to follow Him this week in presence, proclamation, or participation?**

Key Takeaways

- **Discipleship is for ordinary people** who are willing to trust and follow Jesus, not just spiritual elites.
- **Presence with Jesus** is the foundation—knowing Him through Scripture, prayer, and the Holy Spirit.
- **Proclamation** means sharing what Jesus has done in your life—one beggar telling another where to find bread.
- **Participation** involves joining Jesus in setting people free from darkness, whether through prayer, service, or confronting injustice.
- **Jesus is calling you**—not based on your qualifications, but on His grace.

Practical Applications

Choose one or more to practice this week:

1. **Presence:** Set aside 15 minutes daily to read Scripture and pray. Start with the Gospel of Mark if you need a place to begin.
2. **Proclamation:** Write out your story of encountering Jesus in 3-5 sentences. Share it with one person this week.
3. **Participation:**
 - Volunteer with Tabitha's Way or another local ministry
 - Serve on a church team (greeting, kids ministry, setup, etc.)
 - Reach out to someone struggling and offer practical help and prayer
4. **Community:** Invite someone who doesn't know Jesus to join you for coffee or a meal. Listen to their story and share yours.
5. **Prayer:** Pray daily for one person who needs to know Jesus, asking God to open doors for you to share.

Closing Reflection

Silent Reflection (2-3 minutes): Ask the Holy Spirit: "Where are You calling me to follow You more closely—in presence, proclamation, or participation?"

Group Prayer:

- Pray for each member to grow in their relationship with Jesus

- Pray for boldness to share the gospel
 - Pray for opportunities to serve and push back darkness
 - Pray for those who don't yet know Jesus
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Next Steps

- Memorize Mark 3:14-15 this week
 - Read Mark chapters 4-5 before next week's gathering
 - Follow through on your chosen practical application
 - Check in with an accountability partner about your progress
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Remember: You don't have to be a spiritual Navy SEAL to follow Jesus. You just need to show up, trust Him, and take the next step.