

SERMON SERIES: Invest & Invite
SCRIPTURE: Mark 5:16-20
SPEAKER: Dan Syvertsen, *Campus Pastor, Christ Church Highland Park*
DATE: May 27-28, 2017

Small Group Discussion Guide

for leaders (see below for participants' guide)

Gathering Time

- Make sure newcomers are welcomed and engaged in conversation
- Offer a snack and drink if the setting is right (i.e. a home)
- Arrange seating so everyone in the group can see each other

Getting Acquainted

- **What is one takeaway from your last small group meeting? How are you doing putting it into practice in your life?**
 - As routine opener to group meetings, this question encourages individuals to apply your discussions in their lives. It also brings continuity & intentionality from meeting to meeting.
- **Today we're talking about recommending Jesus to people around us. What things have you recommended to others lately? What do you love to recommend, and why do you recommend it?**
 - This question sets the stage for the Bible Exploration and helps people get to know one another on a personal level.

Bible Exploration

- **Read Mark 5:16-20 as a group and reflect on Jesus' interaction with the demon-possessed man. What statements stand out and why? Discuss.**
- **Why do you think Jesus sent the man home to his friends rather than inviting him to join those who were accompanying him?**
- **In his sermon, Pastor Dan used this story to remind us that Jesus changes people. Has Jesus changed your life? If so, how? Share your story with your group.**
- **Just as Jesus went into the towns to reach people, each of his followers is also sent and must go where he or she is called. How do you feel about the call to go out and recommend Jesus to others? Are you ready to respond? Why or why not?**
- **Dan also encouraged us to pray first before we go. He challenged us to identify eight people for whom we will pray this summer. Who could you put on your list? What barriers need to come down for the people on your list to discover life with God?**

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- **What is one takeaway from this week's discussion you can begin applying to your life this week? Be specific, and be prepared to share next time how it went.**

Prayer

- Invite the group to participate in a time of "conversational" prayer. Each person may pray as often as he or she wants, but only 1-2 short sentences on one topic at a time. This lowers the barrier of participation for people unaccustomed to praying with others.

Wrap-Up

- Be sure to end the formal conversation on time.
- Thank newcomers for joining you, and invite everyone to the next meeting.
- Encourage people to linger for a few minutes, and do your best to have a personal interaction with each individual before he or she leaves.

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Prayer