

# SMALL GROUP GUIDE

## GOSPEL OF JOHN: COME & SEE

John looks at the many and varied responses people had to Jesus, especially in the light of this inconceivable thought that God had become one of us. It is a patchwork of stories of people encountering the 'Logos' - some being offended, attracted, healed, restored, delivered... As you work your way through the Gospel of John, notice it is constantly asking, "Who is Jesus?" John's big idea is to "COME AND SEE for yourself".



## WHEN YOU MEET:

Fortnight starting Sunday 28 May

**TESTIMONY TIME:** Have one person in the group share what they've been learning about Jesus.

**PRAY:** Share praise points and pain points, and think about who else around us might need prayer (e.g. our Mission Partners and those they are reaching)

**READ:** Matthew 1:35-39

## DISCUSS:

1. What does "retreating before stepping out" mean for you in your life and how have you been empowered to do mission through prayer? Do you have any story or experiences to share?
2. What are some practical ways of seeking "people of peace" and build relationships with them?
3. What does being a "person of love" mean to you in your life or as a follower of Jesus? What are the challenges of practicing love in action?
4. How is partnering with others helpful in making an impact? Any examples?
5. What are the struggles and challenges of being an alonsider and what are the joys or life-giving activities as an alonsider for you?

**PRAY:** Take 10 minutes to work through Examen together. You may want to allow a few moments, afterwards, for people to share what happened. Find more information and audio files on the website:

<https://grlc.org.au/2020/10/08/daily-examen/>

## MORE RESOURCES:

- Discipleship Resources Hub: [grlc.org.au/discipleship-resources/](https://grlc.org.au/discipleship-resources/)
- Latest sermon: <https://grlc.org.au/grlc-hub/>



## **ALONGSIDERS CALLED TO DO MISSION**

### **Who are alongsiders?**

They are people who come alongside their neighbours, friends, members of their family, school or university mates, workmates etc to show love in practical ways, while bringing peace and humbly sharing the message of the Gospel to them.

### **People of prayer**

Mark 1:35-39. As alongsiders, we follow Jesus' model of retreating to pray before stepping out in service and mission. Prayer changes our hearts and opens us to God to listen to him and talk with him. Prayer empowers us for mission because it changes our hearts and lives and help us become more like him and also helps us understand God's heart which is seeking and looking out for his people to reconcile and be at peace with him. Prayer opens doors for opportunities to share our lives and our faith with others.

### **People of peace**

God calls us to be alongsiders who have the message of peace and reconciliation to seek and engage with people of peace. Peacemaking is an action and often carried out with great courage wrapped in love. Peacemakers look for people of peace who open opportunities for the gospel, mission and meaningful relationships in society. Jesus instructed his disciples to search for a "worthy" person or a "person of peace" when they enter neighbourhoods and communities (Matthew 10:11 and Luke 10:5-7) People of peace are prepared by God to open opportunities into their families, neighbourhoods, workplaces, or communities for the Gospel. Jesus modelled this approach in His relationship with Levi and His approach to eating with people (Mark 2:13-17). Paul modelled this approach with Lydia and her family.

### **People of love (hospitality)**

As Alongsiders we are called to be people of love and holistically respond to their needs. We become people of love when we bless others through words of encouragement, acts of kindness and showing generosity with our material possessions, time and life. 1 John 3:17-18 reminds us that if we are truly followers of Jesus we are not just to love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

### **People who partner**

And lastly we are alongsiders when we partner together with God in his mission. We partner with others such as churches, mission agencies and other believers to share the good news of Jesus, to act with compassion towards those who need help and support, to act justly and stand up for those who are marginalized and are on the fringes of our society and also to act purposefully in looking after God's creation. This partnership empowers our mission and positively impacts and builds the Kingdom of God. Philippians 1:3-8 reminds us of the power of partnership in the gospel and God's transforming work in and through us is entirely an act of God's grace when we partner together in the gospel we are changed and the world witnesses our unity and love.

Therefore, no matter where we are, we all can be alongsiders who lead a life of prayer to be empowered to practice hospitality, sharing God's love in genuine and relevant ways, bringing the message of peace and reconciliation with God to people we journey alongside.