

Asking for a Friend
Group Guide-Week 2
September 21-22, 2019

Conversation Starter: What was a **highlight** or **challenge** from your life last week?

Discipleship Moment: Share how you “**Looked Outward**” this past week. (See the **Looking Outward** section below.) **Or** Share a SOAP. (If no one has any to share, consider doing a SOAP together.)

Worship: Take some time to worship together by reading a Psalm, praying or singing together. Suggested Song: “Love so Great.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qZbmE0JovY>

Pray Together for Crossroads Awakening Conference

This portion of the group guide is a focused time of prayer. Prayer is an important way we connect with God and partner with Him in the mission of bringing Jesus to a lost and broken world. This week we will be kicking off prayer for our **Awakening Conference** happening at Crossroads October 13-15th. We are inviting our groups to take time to pray during your small group this week and then each day at home during the 21 days leading up to the conference. This time of prayer is based on Luke 8:15.

This portion of the prayer guide could take between 10-20 minutes if you read through the scripture and pray over each prompt below for 2-3 minutes...but feel free to pray together as long as your group would like!

***Tips for using the prompts and for those who have not prayed out loud before!**

- Spend 2-3 minutes praying the main ideas of each prompt.
- People who have never prayed out loud may silently agree in prayer.
- Stretch yourself to try praying out loud in the group if you have never done so before by adding the words, “**Lord we**” to the beginning of any prayer prompt. If this is your first time praying out loud, you may feel nervous (that’s normal!); this is a great way to grow in your discipleship journey!

Read Scripture Luke 8: 4-15 together. Briefly discuss verse 15 and how we can pray specifically for good soil.

- Pray for hearts to be open and receptive to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for Crossroaders at all campuses to make space in their calendar to be refreshed at the conference.
- Lift up Guest Speaker, Jack Deere for strength, health, and the message for our church.
- Pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit during this time.
- Pray for many to receive healing and prophetic encouragement during prayer times at the conference.
- Pray this time of renewal lights a fire of revival in our people.
- Pray for Crossroaders to hear God’s Word, obey the Word, and produce a harvest.

For more information on the conference see the website:

<https://xr.church/conference/>

Break into Groups of 2-3 for the next portion of the group guide.

Read Scripture: 1 Samuel 18:1-5

Study Questions:

- What do you like about this passage?
- What do you find difficult?
- What do we learn about God from these scriptures?
- What do we learn about ourselves?
 - Sin to Repent of? (heart correction)
 - Promise to Believe? (heart motivation)
 - Example to Follow? (heart aspiration)
 - Command to Obey? (heart submission)

Make it Personal

- Have you ever had a time you felt you did not fit in with others? What was your experience?
- Jesus was known to be a “friend of sinners.” What does that mean and how can we learn from Jesus’ model?
- Shared experiences build friendships. Can you think of a time when you shared an experience with someone that helped you bond as friends?
- What are some ways that we can make ourselves available to others in order to build friendships?
- What are some obstacles that you experience that could keep you from having friend relationships?
- Do you think being friends with others is an important part of being a disciple? Why or why not?

Act on It

- What is the action step God is speaking to you in light of what we just discussed? Take time to pray for one another in groups of 2 or 3.

Looking Outward

- Share names of those you sense God calling you to share the love of Jesus with and then pray for those names. This week, look for God to provide a moment of opportunity or an open door with that person. Tell the group about your experience of looking outward next week.

Pray for the Open Chair: Close by taking an open chair and placing it in the center of the group. Pray God would help you invite someone to fill that chair who needs to experience Jesus’ love and power through the group next week.