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FOOLS

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There has been a movement that began over 2,000 years ago. It was started when Jesus invested in 12 men. Then after His death and resurrection, 11 of those men unleashed this movement in the world around them and the world has never been the same since.

When you look around at the world though it is often hard to see the effects of this movement. And definitely when we read scripture we often long for and wonder why we do not see moves of God like we read about in His word. There are many reasons for this but I think that one is that we have strived to hard to be normal. We try to blend in and fit in and therefore are not standing out as a light for Christ like we have been called to.

I have thought this for a while and then believed it even more when I read how Paul described him and his fellow workmen. He called them fools. They stood out so much and lived in such contrast to the world that they did not understand. So there was no better way to describe themselves then as fools. We need more fools in the world. This is why this study is devoted to understanding what it means to be a fool and what that life looks like. Here is how the study will break down.

LESSON 1: FREE IN CHRIST

LESSON 2: ON A MISSION

LESSON 3: OPEN HEARTS AND OPEN EYES

LESSON 4: LOVING COMMUNITY

LESSON 5: SELFLESS

I hope this study will bring you as much joy and conviction as it did for me in writing it. And I hope that it will spark a movement in the lives of those who you study it with that will spread all over the world.

LESSON 1: FREE IN CHRIST
ROMANS 6

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SESSION ONE

⁹ FOR IT SEEMS TO ME THAT GOD HAS PUT US APOSTLES ON DISPLAY AT THE END OF THE PROCESSION, LIKE THOSE CONDEMNED TO DIE IN THE ARENA. WE HAVE BEEN MADE A SPECTACLE TO THE WHOLE UNIVERSE, TO ANGELS AS WELL AS TO HUMAN BEINGS. ¹⁰ WE ARE FOOLS FOR CHRIST, BUT YOU ARE SO WISE IN CHRIST! WE ARE WEAK, BUT YOU ARE STRONG! YOU ARE HONORED, WE ARE DISHONORED! ¹¹ TO THIS VERY HOUR WE GO HUNGRY AND THIRSTY, WE ARE IN RAGS, WE ARE BRUTALLY TREATED, WE ARE HOMELESS. ¹² WE WORK HARD WITH OUR OWN HANDS WHEN WE ARE CURSED, WE BLESS; WHEN WE ARE PERSECUTED, WE ENDURE IT; ¹³ WHEN WE ARE SLANDERED, WE ANSWER KINDLY. WE HAVE BECOME THE SCUM OF THE EARTH, THE GARBAGE OF THE WORLD. RIGHT UP TO THIS MOMENT.

1 CORINTHIANS 4:9 - 11 NIV

WHAT DO YOU THINK PAUL IS SAYING IN THIS PASSAGE?

DO YOU SEE YOURSELF AS MORE LIKE THE APOSTLES OR LIKE THE CHURCH IN CORINTH?

IF WE ARE "OUT OF OUR MIND," AS SOME SAY, IT IS FOR GOD; IF WE ARE IN OUR RIGHT MIND, IT IS FOR YOU.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:13

READ ROMANS 6

1. IN CHRIST WE ARE FREE.

2. THIS FREEDOM COMES ONLY THROUGH SALVATION IN CHRIST.

WHAT DO PEOPLE USUALLY SAY OUR FREEDOM COMES FROM?

BUT DO WE GET FREEDOM FROM?

A. FREE FROM SIN.

B. FREE FROM DEATH.

C. FREE FROM FEAR.

3. THIS FREEDOM IS NOT JUST FOR US.

SO AS WE CLOSE I HAVE TWO QUESTIONS FOR YOU.

1. DO YOU HAVE THIS FREEDOM?

2. WHO DO YOU NEED TO TAKE THIS GIFT OF FREEDOM TO?

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SESSION ONE

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF AS A FOOL FOR CHRIST? WHY OR WHY NOT?
2. WHAT DO YOU THINK THINGS WOULD LOOK LIKE IF WE BECAME FOOLS FOR CHRIST?
3. WHAT KEEPS YOU FROM BEING FREE?
 - A. FROM SIN?
 - B. FROM DEATH?
 - C. FROM FEAR?
4. WHO DO YOU NEED TO GO TELL ABOUT THIS GIFT OF FREEDOM?
5. TAKE SOME TIME TO WALK BACK THROUGH ROMANS 6 TO ALLOW STUDENTS TO WRESTLE WITH ANY SCRIPTURE THEY DO NOT QUITE UNDERSTAND OR TO SHARE WHAT TRUTHS JUMP OUT AT THEM.

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LESSON 2: ON A MISSION
MATTHEW 28:18 - 20

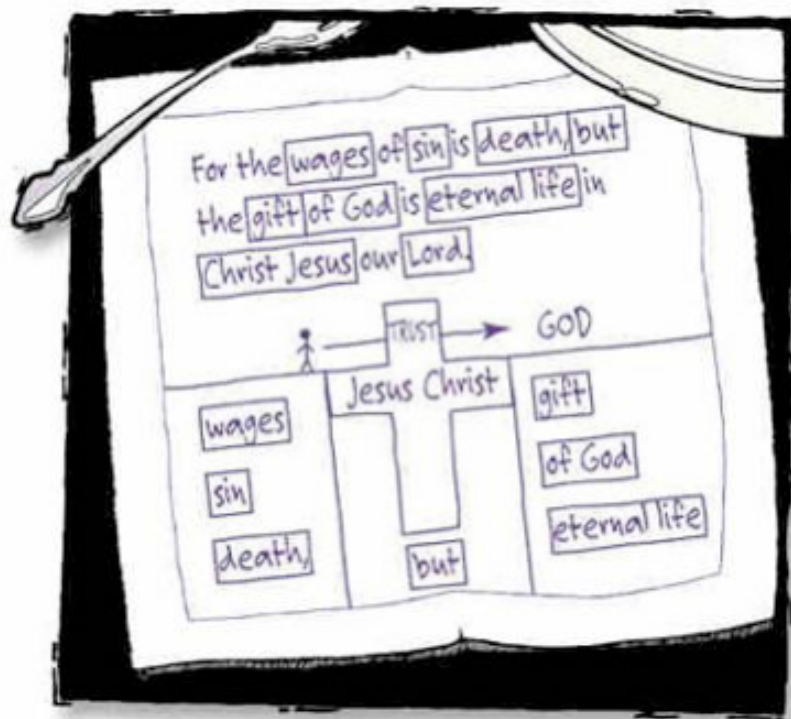
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SESSION TWO

*¹⁸ THEN JESUS CAME TO THEM AND SAID, "ALL AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ME. ¹⁹ THEREFORE GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, ²⁰ AND TEACHING THEM TO OBEY EVERYTHING I HAVE COMMANDED YOU. AND SURELY I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, TO THE VERY END OF THE AGE."
MATTHEW 28:18 - 20*

1. WHEN JESUS SPEAKS, WE MUST LISTEN.
2. WE ARE TO MAKE DISCIPLES
 - A. MAKING DISCIPLES STARTS WITH SHARING THE GOSPEL.

READ ROMANS 6:23



B. MAKING DISCIPLES CONTINUES WITH DOING LIFE TOGETHER

B. THE GOSPEL IS FOR ALL PEOPLE.

C. JESUS IS WITH US THE WHOLE TIME.

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SESSION TWO

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF AS A TROOP SHIP READY FOR BATTLE OR A LUXURY LINER?
2. WHAT ARE SOME COMMANDS OF JESUS THAT YOU HAVE BEEN IGNORING?
3. HAVE YOU EVER SHARED THE GOSPEL WITH SOMEONE?
4. IF SO WHAT WAS IT LIKE? IF NOT, WHY NOT?
5. DO YOU BELIEVE THE GOSPEL IS FOR ALL PEOPLE? DOES THAT TRUTH MEAN YOU NEED TO CHANGE ANYTHING IN YOUR LIFE?
6. HOW DOES IT MAKE YOU FEEL THAT JESUS IS ALWAYS WITH US?
7. PRACTICE SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH ONE ANOTHER.

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SESSION THREE

READ MATTHEW 25:31 - 46

1. WE MUST SEE THE NEED AROUND US.
2. WHEN WE FAIL TO MEET NEEDS WE FAIL TO LOVE GOD.
3. WE MUST BE BROKEN NOT JUST GUILTY.
4. WE MUST LOVE THE WHOLE PERSON.
 - A. PHYSICAL NEEDS
 - B. EMOTIONAL/RELATIONAL NEEDS
 - C. SPIRITUAL NEEDS
5. WE MUST BE CLOSE TO NEEDS.



SESSION THREE

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. WHICH SIDE OF OUR CALLING ARE YOU BETTER AT?
DO YOU DO EITHER?
2. WHAT ARE SOME NEEDS YOU SEE AROUND YOU?
3. ARE YOU MEETING NEEDS?
4. WHAT DOES IT MEANT TO YOU TO LOVE THE WHOLE
PERSON?
5. ARE THERE NEEDS YOU AS A GROUP HAVE BEEN FAR
FROM AND NEED TO GET CLOSE TO?
6. BRAINSTORM HOW YOU AS A GROUP CAN BEGIN
MEETING THE NEEDS OF THOSE AROUND YOU.

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LESSON 4: LOVING
COMMUNITY
ACTS 2:42 - 47

SESSION FOUR

READ GENESIS 2:18.

READ ACTS 2: 42 - 47

1. THE IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO COMING TO CHRIST IS BECOMING PART OF A COMMUNITY.
2. CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IS DIVERSE.
3. CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY STUDIES GOD'S WORD.
4. CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY HOLDS EACH OTHER ACCOUNTABLE.
5. CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIPS TOGETHER.
6. CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY PRAYS TOGETHER.
7. CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY MEETS THE NEEDS OF ONE ANOTHER.

8. CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY WORSHIPS TOGETHER.

9. CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IS NECESSARY.

10. CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY MULTIPLIES.



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SESSION FOUR

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. DISCUSS WAYS WHERE YOU SEE PEOPLE MAKE CHOICES OUT OF A DESIRE FOR COMMUNITY.
2. GO THROUGH EACH ASPECT OF COMMUNITY AND DISCUSS ITS IMPORTANCE AND HOW YOU ARE DOING IN THAT AREA AS A GROUP.

A large, faint background graphic of a hand holding a sign that says "FOOLS". The hand is rendered in a light gray, stippled style. The sign is a white rectangle with a gray border, and the word "FOOLS" is written on it in a large, bold, sans-serif font. The hand is positioned as if holding the sign from behind, with fingers visible on the right side.

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LESSON 5: SELFLESS PHILIPPIANS 2:1 - 11

READ PHILIPPIANS 2:1 - 11.

1. PUT OTHERS FIRST, IN ALL THINGS.
2. HUMBLE YOURSELF BECAUSE CHRIST HUMBLED HIMSELF MORE.
3. SACRIFICE EVERYTHING FOR GOD AND OTHERS BECAUSE JESUS DID THE SAME FOR YOU.
4. KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE ONLY GOAL WORTH WORKING TOWARDS.



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SESSION FIVE

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. LEAD YOUR GROUP IN DISCUSSION AND PRAYER AS YOU FEEL THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADING YOU.

SESSION FIVE



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