

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

VISION SUNDAY

Scripture: Matthew Chapter 4:18-22

Pastor Miles McPherson – 3 Jan 2016

Today was Vision Sunday. Pastor Miles shared what the Rock church will be focusing on in 2016. Using a football analogy, he pointed out that each team huddles together to call the play and coordinate their strategy. While this is extremely important, fans do not attend or watch games to see players form a huddle. They want to see the plays being executed. When we attend church, that is the equivalent of being in the huddle, but if that is all we do, we are not executing the plan God has for us during the week. Pastor Miles called on the church members to be **disciples** (learners and followers of Jesus) and not just Sunday attendees. Pastor Miles challenged us to not only be disciples but to find one to disciple.

MEMORY VERSE

Then He said to them, "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men."

Matthew 4:19

DISCUSSION STARTERS

1. Pastor Miles talked about a recent college football game where a team was losing 31 to 0 at halftime and had to play with their back-up quarterback. It seemed like a hopeless situation. But the team did not give up and eventually won in triple overtime.

Describe a desperate situation you experienced but were able to overcome it. How did God help you get through it?

2. When you were growing up, what was something you feared?

3. Complete this sentence: I'm going to be different this year by _____.



STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Pastor Miles wrote a book called "**21 Jumpstart**". It is for new Christians with daily devotions and follows the book of John. It is based on the idea that 3 weeks of following a pattern will lead to habit and repetition. The Rock will be doing a 3 week fast starting January 11th . What can you do for three weeks and establish a new habit pattern that will transform you by being better informed, more loving, more patient or a better example of what being a learner and follower of Jesus really looks like?

2. In all the accounts of the 12 apostles being called by Jesus, there was no hesitation recorded about immediately leaving their careers and following Jesus. Share about a time you overcame your fear and stepped out of your comfort zone to do something God was calling on you to do.

3. What are the hesitations, feelings of uneasiness or barriers that prevent us from reaching out to a friend or loved one and sharing our faith and inviting them to have a relationship with Jesus Christ?

Leader note: Pastor Miles stated that rejection & being cursed out will not kill you - we need to have courage to do uncomfortable things. Remind the group that seeing friends and family in the group going to hell will e far more uncomfortable.

4. Is your life being fulfilled? Why or why not?

Leader note: Pastor Miles pointed out that if our skills and talents are not matching what we are doing, than we may not be following the plan God has called upon us to be doing.

For these questions, suggest breaking into groups of 2 or 3.

5. If God required us to each make a New Year's resolution, what would yours be?

6. Pastor Miles challenged us to be more involved Christians and not just church attendees who sit on the sidelines and avoid executing the play called in the Sunday huddle (church). Take a few moments and reflect in silent prayer about what you do to become a bolder, more involved Christian. What is God calling on you to do to be a transformed Christian? Share within your smaller group what you can do and pray and encourage one another to follow through.

7. This week's memory verse, Matt 4:19, in the original language 'follow me' is actually a command not just a suggestion or request. Both Peter and Andrew immediately left their fishing career to follow Jesus. Jesus is setting a new expectation for how his followers will live



their lives. What has God been asking you to do that would be following Him and transforming your life?

8. Being a disciple (learner and follower of Jesus) is an ongoing process. Who can you connect with to be an accountability partner?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Prayerfully prepare, reflect and be ready for a challenge God will give you this week. Like the first apostles, be ready to immediately respond to God's challenge.

Pray for Spiritual guidance and take the Rock Spiritual Gifts test to see where your gifts and talents would be a good fit to serve in a ministry.

<http://www.sdrock.com/giftstest/>

TAKE IT HOME!

Pray and reflect on 1 person you can invite/ bring to the Rock next week who does NOT have a relationship with Jesus. Ask yourself: **How can God use me to bring someone to Christ?**

