GROUP DISCUSSION:

ICE-BREAKER:

Who is your favorite teacher? Is there a habit you picked up from him/her?

WATCH: Being Like Jesus - Rabbis and Disciples Part 3

https://youtu.be/8TfdkkKbdAQ?t=486

If you group is short on time, you can start the video at the 8:06 timemarker and stop at 21:28 (~12m)



What aspects of first century Jewish discipleship helps you better understand the invitation of Jesus to you to be his disciple?

DISCUSSION:

Discipleship involves being with, becoming like, and doing what your rabbi does.That is the journey Jesus invites each of us to be part of. The ultimate purpose of this journey is to become like Jesus.

- **Be with Jesus -** The writers of the gospels, observed Jesus keeping a rhythm of spending time with his Father. These were some of his practices - silence and solitude, prayer, fasting, sabbath, and meditating on scripture.
  Why is making space for cultivating an intimate relationship with Jesus such an essential part of discipleship? Which of these ways of Jesus do you find hardest to practice?

- **Be Like Jesus -** To be like Jesus is to have your attitudes and thoughts shaped by Jesus (Phil 2). For the disciples, this forming of their hearts and minds happened on a three year journey with Jesus followed by being filled with the Spirit of Christ. They watched him relate to people, listened in on conversations, asked him questions, allowed Jesus to address their fears and preconceived ideas. And all of this happened in the community.

Why do you think Jesus discipled the apostles in community?
What aspects of community are important for us to cultivate in order for Jesus to do His best work though our mutual fellowship?

- **Do what Jesus did -** Here are some of the things that Jesus did has part of his ministry - extend table hospitality, care for the poor, stand with the oppressed, welcome children, share the good news of the kingdom, heal the sick, cast out demons etc.

  What are some things Jesus had his disciples do even before they felt ready?
  What are some opportunities that Jesus has placed before you to practice doing what he did that have felt like a stretch?

RESPONSE:

Please leave 10 minutes at the end of your time together for a response.

John 8:31-31: Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Have you stopped short at simply believing in Jesus? Or are you ready to accept His invitation to be a true disciple?

Begin with 30 seconds of quiet and stillness.

Leader: Hold out their hands in a position of receiving. Let's invite the Holy Spirit to speak to us together.

Everyone: "Holy Spirit, come."

Leader: Let's give the Holy Spirit a few minutes to speak to our hearts with the things we've discussed tonight. (2-3 minutes of silence)

If the Holy Spirit is highlighting anything to you personally or inviting you into something deeper, please feel free to respond to Him out loud in prayer so we can agree in prayer with you.

Leader: Holy Spirit, thank you for your ministry tonight, we ask that you do more of what you are doing in each of our lives. Amen.