

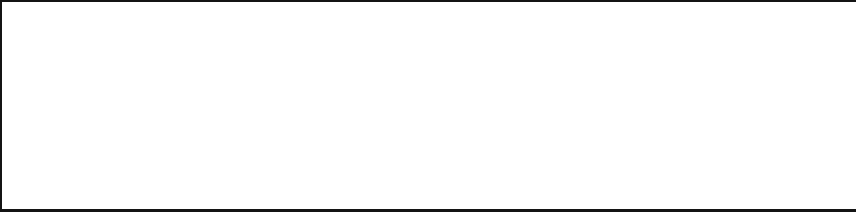


make a way
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We believe no one is too far away from God or unable to take one simple step toward Him. An extraordinary life in Jesus is available to everyone if they are only willing to take that one step.

God is one step away.



I way e one

Have you ever thought about the cost of *not* inviting someone to church? The cost of *not* sharing your faith?

As individuals, we spend a great deal of time focusing on what makes us comfortable in our personal lives. For some of us, we're totally surrounded by other followers of Jesus and we're completely isola from those who are far from God. For others, we're connected to lots of people who don't know Jesus, but we've not ever shared our story or invited them to church. Can we break out of our comfort zone personally and invite someone to church so that their lives can be changed? Can we ask God to change our hearts and our daily activity for the sake of the one? This is what it means to be a fully-devoted follower.

As a church, we spend a lot of time thinking about what makes us comfortable in church. The atmosphere, the music, the message, our friends. Are we willing to be uncomfortable with church the way we know it and like it if that means more people around us who don't know Jesus can come to know him?

As individuals and as a church, we must learn how to engage those who don't know Jesus. This message series and notebook are designed to help you begin engaging with the people around you more intentionally and see them as Jesus wants you to see them.

Join us on the journey as we count the cost. Don't miss a single weekend of this four-week series!

For the one,



Todd Carter, Lead Pastor

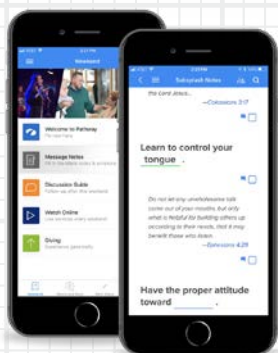
Weekend Message Notes

Week 1: Why the One

Week 2: Prepare for the One

Week 3: Engage with the One

Week 4: The 99 for the One



Take weekend message notes on the Pathway App

Download at pathwaychurch.com/app



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Take a WYAY



Home Teams
Group Study

Discussion Guide

Group Discussion Guide

Week 1: Why the One

📌 Big Idea

Discover your heart for the lost and do something about it.

▶ **Watch Week 1 Video** (on DVD or at pathwaychurch.com/studies)

📖 **Read, Discuss, and Journal Answers**

Opening Questions:

1. Share an experience that was really important to you in 6th grade.

2. Have you ever really been lost? What happened?

Read

Mark 2:1-12, John 15:1-7, Luke 19:10, & John 10:10

In the Word

1. If you were one of the people in the crowd in Mark 2:1-4, what would you be thinking?
2. Why do you think forgiveness and healing go together in Mark 2:5?
3. What stands out to you most in the whole story from Mark 2:1-12?
4. In what way does the story of the lost sheep in John 15:1-7 relate to today's story of the paralyzed man?
5. What are some ways that Luke 19:10 helps us see Jesus' perspective in this story?

Making it Personal

1. Share about a time when someone invited you to an event or to be part of something. How did that make you feel? How did you respond?
2. In the story of the lost sheep, what does it teach you about “lost people”? How can you be more aware of lost people around you?
3. What are some fears or barriers in your own life that keep you from inviting or sharing your story?

**Who will you commit to invite to church this week?
Share their name with the group.**

Continued Learning *(self-study throughout the week)*

Subscribe to the Pathway Daily Devotional on the Pathway App or at pathwaychurch.com/devotionals and allow these ideas and the Holy Spirit to move in you.

In the Word

1. How does the Pharisees' anger in Mark 2:7 reflect they are as lost as anyone else?
2. Why do you think the Pharisees' hearts went in the direction they did in Mark 2:8-11?
3. Name some ways the Pharisees' hearts, as well as the other people in the story, are as paralyzed as the man on the mat.
4. When the man's physical body is healed and his heart is changed, he gets up and walks. How does that correlate to us walking a new path when Jesus heals us?
5. Psalm 10:17 and Psalm 19:14 both give truths that can help our hearts today. Name some of those truths.

Making it Personal

1. If Jesus could see into your heart today, how would He react? How would He want you to change?
2. Name a new path or direction you have walked because of Jesus' heart healing power in your life.
3. In what way are we no different than the Pharisees in this story?
4. Share one way your healed heart has helped you see life more like Jesus.

Share your invite update with the group.

Group Discussion Guide

Week 3: Engage with the One

📌 Big Idea

Jesus wants us to choose the right activities.

▶ **Watch Week 3 Video** (on DVD or at pathwaychurch.com/studies)

📄 **Read, Discuss, and Journal Answers**

Opening Questions:

1. Share a favorite family saying or some quote you live by.

2. Share something about your best friend as a child.

Read

Mark 2:1-12, Matthew 17:14-21, Galatians 6:1-2, & 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Making it Personal

1. Why is it hard to serve our friends like the paralyzed man's friends did? What have you regretted not doing for a friend in need?
2. How can we perceive needs of our friends and family that we can assist with? Are there times you have found when you should not step into a situation to help?
3. Who was someone in your life that made a difference for you because of their persistence?
4. Is there someone in your life that you need to be persistent with to help find Jesus?

Share your invite update with the group.

Group Discussion Guide

Week 4: The 99 for the One

📌 Big Idea

Jesus wants us to prepare the right environment.

▶ **Watch Week 4 Video** (on DVD or at pathwaychurch.com/studies)

📖 **Read, Discuss, and Journal Answers**

Opening Questions

1. What makes where you live feel like home?

2. If you could be a house, describe what you would be like.

Read

Mark 2:1-11, Luke 18:15-17, Luke 14:1-6, Luke 7:26-43,
Luke 19:5-9, & Mark 2:15-17

In the Word

1. Explain the possible challenges the friends faced in Mark 2:1-5 getting their friend to Jesus both before and after he was healed.
2. Tell why you think the people were comfortable or uncomfortable coming to Jesus in the verses listed above.
3. It seems most of the time when Jesus connects with people He is out in public or in someone's home. What does that mean to you?
4. Put yourself in the place of the people crowded into the house for a "church service." Describe your reaction to the roof being opened up and a sick man being lowered in front of "the pastor."

Making it Personal

1. How can we foster an environment to help others connect with Jesus in our homes and church?

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*"They overcame him by the blood of the
Lamb, and by the word of their testimony..."*

-REVELATION 12:11

Sharing Your Story

Build your story:

- What was your life like prior to following Jesus?
- What caused you to consider following Jesus?
- How has following Jesus changed your life?

Things to avoid:

- Overly spiritual stories
- Church words and terminology

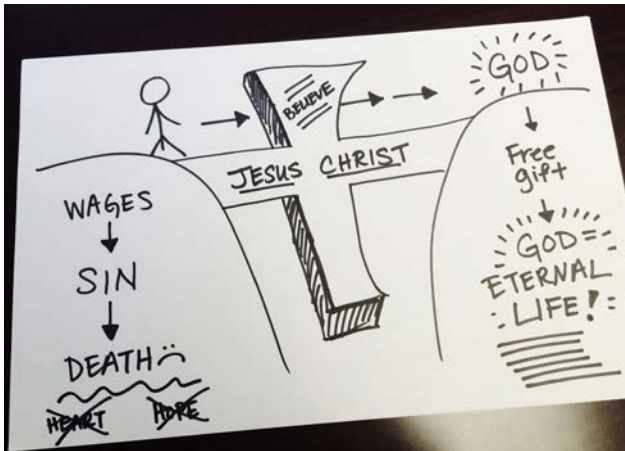
Practice sharing your story:

- Practice out loud with a friend
- Provide each other with constructive feedback
- Share it in under three minutes

Sharing The Gospel

Practice using the “Bridge Gospel Share Tool” with a friend (*pictured below*).

Additionally, explore other ways to share the Gospel such as the “Share Your Faith” app from howtoshareyourfaith.com.



Building Habits

A habit is defined as “a settled or regular tendency or practice, especially one that is hard to give up.” Each of us has a habit in our life that took time to develop. Whether it is going to the gym, reading the Word, or spending habits, developing the right habits is important. What if we thought about “relationship building,” “faith sharing,” and “church inviting” behaviors as habit forming?

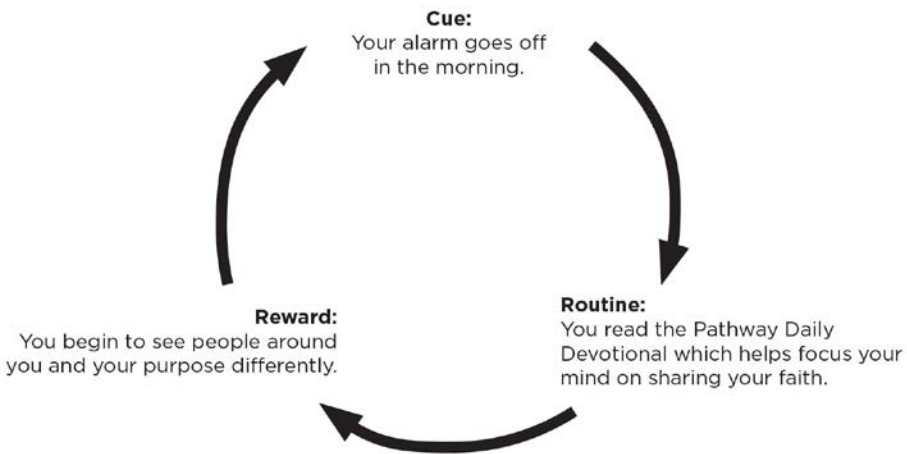
In his book, *The Power of Habit*, Charles Duhigg explains that forming a habit requires a cycle of cue, routine, and reward.¹ Anticipation of the reward helps motivate us to acknowledge the cue and follow through in the routine. For example:

Cue: Your alarm goes off at 5:10am

Routine: You get dressed and go to the gym

Reward: You feel healthy and less stressed

See the example below for how we can use this model to serve us as we build relationships and share our faith.



¹Charles Duhigg, *The Power of Habit*, charlesduhigg.com

Building Relationships



1. Starting the Conversation

If you want to make a relationship a priority, first you have to learn how to start an initial conversation. For some, it's easy to approach and talk with people, but for others, it's nerve wracking. Here are four steps to start a conversation in an easy and non-threatening way:

Notice: Find something (usually something in common) in which to engage someone.

Approach: Ask a simple question related to what you have noticed.

Intentionally Listen: Ask them something referencing what you heard in the form of a question. Listen with the intent of serving them.

Learn: Take away one or two things you learned and check back in with them at a later date.



2. Building the Connection

After the door is open from good conversation, begin finding ways to build a good connection together.

Remember these points:

People Engage On All Platforms. Engage on their platform. If they like to text, text with them. Pay attention to those commonalities.

Don't be afraid to share who you are. Be open and honest. As you tell more of your story, it builds common ground and shared experiences. This is also a great place to share your testimony of your life with Christ.

This isn't about you. Peoples lives are messy so don't be afraid to meet them where they are. Don't allow your fear of someone's life dictate how you engage with them.

As you build the connection, notice that the door will open for simple invitations to begin. Consider having a play date for your kids, getting coffee, or having a double date night.



3. Taking Temperature & Inviting

As you build a connection, the door for invitation will open. You have to pay attention to it, but also know how to proceed through it. Observe and listen for cues of a sudden life-change such as “I lost my job,” “I just moved to the area,” “We just had a baby,” or “My family is going through a divorce.”

As you hear these cues, this is where you take the temperature of the situation and determine if this is an good time to extend an invitation to church or share your story (or a testimony).

As you extend the invitation or share your story, pay attention to the response you get. Think of it like a spotlight:

- **Red Light:** Not open right now to hearing about God or being invited to church.
- **Yellow Light:** Their response may be somewhat lukewarm. Proceed with caution.
- **Green Light:** Open to the extended invitation and ready to take a next step.

As you extend that invitation, there may be times where they express apprehension or not being ready. If you observe this type of red light behavior repeatedly, you could consider extending a different kind of invitation to something church-related.

For example, if they say no to coming to the Weekend Experience, invite them to an event at your campus such as a movie night or invite them to watch the livestream at ***pathwaychurch.live***. These activities can help break down barriers and previous ideas.

Remember, even if they repeatedly say no, don't stop caring and building the relationship. While it may seem fruitless to you, the invitation plants a seed and reminds us to rely on God to be in control.



Next Steps & Upcoming Invite Opportunities

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Next Steps

Pray and fill out the space below:

I want my life rhythm in this area to reflect my heart for people who are far from God. As we begin this new season, help me to stay focused on praying and connecting with “the one” in my life and on the places where I go to connect with them.

WHO IS YOUR ONE? *Make a list of people in your life.*

WHERE ARE YOU GOING? *Make a list of places you go.*



Upcoming Invite Opportunities

Save these dates as prime times to invite your “one.” Stay tuned for more details.

Christmas at Pathway

December 22-24

At the Movies

Series begins January 12 & 13

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