

BGCC Community Group Guide



Mission Statement

May 24th 2026

Look Up, Lean In, Step Out, Press On

Key Text: Mark 6:45-56 & Matthew 28

Introduction: Following the Rhythm of Jesus

The vision of BGCC is simple:

To see families and individuals follow Jesus faithfully, grow in community, and impact the world through His mission.

The mission is how we pursue that vision:

- Look Up
- Lean In
- Step Out
- Press On

These are not modern church strategies or catchy phrases. They are rhythms we see directly in the life of Jesus Himself. In Mark 6, Jesus shows His disciples what it looks like to live dependent on the Father, connected to one another, compassionate toward the lost, and faithful through difficulty.

This study is not primarily about church structure—it is about discipleship. These are movements every believer is called into. As Dallas Willard once wrote, “The greatest issue facing the world today is whether those who are identified as Christians will become disciples.”

Section 1 — Look Up

Text

Mark 6:45–46

Summary

After feeding the 5,000, Jesus dismisses the crowd and withdraws alone to pray. This is striking because Jesus had every reason to stay with the crowds, continue growing His popularity, or simply rest from exhaustion. Instead, He prioritizes communion with the Father.

Jesus models something foundational here: ministry flows from devotion, not the other way around. Before He pours out publicly, He connects privately with the Father. Looking up means more than believing God exists. It means worship, surrender, dependence, prayer, and obedience. Jesus shows that life with God is not sustained by activity alone but by relationship with the Father.

As A. W. Tozer wrote, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”

Group Question

Why is it often easier to stay busy for God (ministry/volunteering) than to slow down and genuinely spend time with Him?

Personal Relevance

Many believers unintentionally substitute religious activity for intimacy with God. It is possible to attend church, serve, volunteer, and stay busy while spiritually running on empty. Jesus reminds us that spiritual life begins with dependence on the Father. “Apart from me, you can do nothing” John 15:5.

Reflection:

What are some ways people try to find identity, approval, or fulfillment apart from God?

Are there areas of your life where you are functioning spiritually without genuine dependence on Christ?

Section 2 — Lean In

Mark 6:47–52

Summary

The disciples are together in the storm—struggling, afraid, confused, and spiritually immature. Mark even tells us they still did not fully understand who Jesus was. Yet Jesus comes to them anyway.

Throughout the Gospels, discipleship happens in community. The disciples learn together, fail together, ask questions together, and grow together. Jesus did not call isolated individuals—He formed a spiritual family.

The church was never meant to be merely an event to attend. It is a body, a family, and a community where believers encourage and strengthen one another. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, “The Christian needs another Christian who speaks God’s Word to him.”

Group Question

Why do people often isolate themselves spiritually when they are struggling?

Personal Relevance

Isolation often feels safer and less exposed, but spiritual growth rarely happens alone. God designed believers to walk with one another through encouragement, accountability, correction, prayer, and support.

Even the disciples—who constantly misunderstood Jesus—were patiently formed together in community. Hebrews 10:24-25 says, “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds...”

Flow Question

What are some barriers that keep people from deeply connecting within the church?

Reflective Question

Do you allow other believers close enough to encourage and challenge you spiritually?

Section 3 — Step Out

Mark 6:34; 53–56

Summary

Jesus looks at the crowds and sees people “like sheep without a shepherd.” Instead of avoiding them, He moves toward them with compassion. He teaches them, heals them, feeds them, and reveals God’s love to them.

Jesus consistently stepped toward broken and hurting people. The church is called to do the same. Believers are ambassadors of Christ, carrying His message and His character into the world.

This means stepping out:

- with compassion
- with truth
- with service
- with the gospel

“Every Christian is either a missionary or an imposter.” - Charles Spurgeon

Group Question

What fears or obstacles most commonly keep Christians from stepping out and sharing their faith?

Personal Relevance

Many believers want others to know Jesus but feel intimidated, unprepared, or afraid of rejection. Worse yet, they may think it’s not their job or that it ‘violates someone’s privacy’. Christians are concerned with the true essence of people and life. And they don’t let their own preparation, fear, or rules stand in the way of God’s mission for them.

Flow Question

What are some practical ways Christians can demonstrate the love of Christ in everyday life?

Reflective Question

Who around you may be spiritually hurting, isolated, or “without a shepherd”?

Section 4 — Press On

Mark 6:50–51

Summary

The disciples are terrified in the storm, but Jesus comes to them and says:

“Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

Jesus does not immediately remove difficulty from their lives. Instead, He gives them His presence within the storm.

The Christian life includes hardship, discouragement, fear, suffering, and exhaustion. Even faithful believers struggle at times. But perseverance comes from remembering that Christ is with His people.

The church also helps believers endure through encouragement, prayer, and support.

As Martin Luther wrote: “Everything that is done in the world is done by hope.”

Group Question

Why is perseverance difficult even for sincere believers?

Personal Relevance

Many believers assume strong faith means never struggling with fear or discouragement. But Scripture repeatedly shows faithful people needing encouragement from God and from others.

Perseverance is not about pretending to be strong—it is about continuing to trust Christ through weakness. “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Flow Question

What are some ways believers can encourage one another to keep pressing on?

Reflective Question

Where in your life do you most need Christ's courage and strength right now?

Closing Summary / Application

In Mark 6, Jesus shows His disciples the rhythm of faithful Christian living:

- Look Up — depend on the Father
- Lean In — grow together in community
- Step Out — move toward others with compassion and truth
- Press On — persevere through difficulty with courage and hope

These are not simply church goals. They are rhythms modeled by Jesus Himself.

The church flourishes when it lives this way together. And individually, believers grow when they continually return to Christ as the center of everything. Augustine of Hippo wrote:

“Our hearts are restless until they rest in You.”

The question is not simply whether we know these movements—
but whether we are truly living the rhythm that Christ did alongside Him.