

The Plan - It all starts here.

Ice-Breaker: *(Group Leader - Have everyone in your group answer this question. Start with one person and then proceed around the group in a circle until the last person has answered. Be specific with who you would like to start with.)*

- What is a movie scene that has some sort of fight going on that causes you to rise up on the inside with a desire for victory?
 - For Example: Rocky - He is down on the mat and then gets up to defeat his opponent.

Tough Questions to Consider: *(Group Leader - Ask 3 or 4 specific people to answer these questions.)*

1. What is a current fight/battle you see currently going on in our culture/world?
2. Is there a fight you find yourself taking a side on right now?
3. How do people respond to the opposite side during a battle? How does that work out?

IN A WORLD WHERE EVERYONE CLIMBS OVER ONE ANOTHER TO RISE UP GOD CLIMBS DOWN:

Philippians 2:5-8

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

⁶ Though he was God,
he did not think of equality with God
as something to cling to.
⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges;
he took the humble position of a slave
and was born as a human being.
When he appeared in human form,
⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God
and died a criminal's death on a cross.

- **Try to make the incarnation tangible in a statement:**
 - For example: Brian asked, "Would you be willing to go back to the age of 13 & help Jr. Highers?"

TEXT John 1:14

So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unending love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son

Matthew 4:16-17

the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light.
And for those who lived in the land where death casts its shadow,
a light has shined."

Group Question: *(Group Leader - Ask 2 or 3 specific people to answer these questions.)*

- What does this mean to you?

Matthew 4:17

From then on Jesus began to preach, "Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near."

- And what does this mean to you?

Matthew 4:19

Come, follow me, and I will show you...

Group Question: *(Group Leader - Ask 2 or 3 specific people to answer these questions.)*

- How did Jesus show his followers to live?
- Does this look like the posture we see in our culture when someone desires to take over?

Jesus is taking over: *His message is one of love with a heart driven toward serving those who need victory over the true battle, death.*

How we follow:

TEXT Matthew 5:14-16 *(Group Leader - Ask someone to read the text out loud.)*

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the

house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Group Question: *(Group Leader - Ask 2 or 3 specific people to answer these questions.)*

- You are the salt of the Earth. What does this mean?

Closing Challenge: *(Group Leader - Ask everyone to answer the challenge.)*

- How will you live the gospel (the “good news” of Jesus) to those around you today?
- What is your commitment to be the church?
 - *We live here. We church here!*

Closing Prayer: *(Group Leader - Ask someone to pray for the group out loud or have everyone in the group pray.)*

- Holy Spirit, help us to be the church, that group which will never be stopped. It all starts here.

Thanks: Thanks to everyone for coming to group.