

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Message Series: 1More
Message Title: Investing in 1More
Speaker: Lance Burch
Date: January 8, 2017

UP NEXT

- **Financial Peace University** - Get a handle on debt and live like no one else. Class begins this **Thursday, January 12th**. This first class is free to attend.
- **Building strong Marriages / re|engage** - If any of your New Year's resolutions included growing closer to your spouse then you need to register for re|engage. Come check it out **Tuesday, January 17th** and then decide if it's right for your marriage.
- **Women's Conference** - Ladies, be sure to register for the Women's Conference being held at Reality Church on January 21st. The theme this year is "Wholly Loved" and will include keynote speakers, breakout sessions, a panel discussion, and fantastic live worship. Register online at reality.church/events.
- **Baptism Sunday** - If you or anyone you know would like to be baptized please plan on attending our next Baptism Sunday which will be **Sunday, January 15th**.

MAIN IDEA

The people that matter to God must matter to us.

INTRODUCTION

- There are numerous times in the New Testament when Jesus invested in someone. In fact, when you take a step back and look at Scripture with a wide-angle lens you see that most of the time, Jesus was investing in someone. Everything He did while on earth was a calculated act. He seemed to be always teaching those who were listening. Many times He confused those around Him with parables and stories perhaps hoping they would continue to seek after Him and truly find the answers to their questions.
- Those who Jesus invested in the most were His disciples. Jesus truly poured Himself into twelve men who would ultimately change the world. We have proof Jesus' investment in their lives worked because we are here today. Think about it, there's absolutely no reason we should be meeting weekly praising God and Jesus without the leading of the original twelve disciples. Jesus' investment into them is still returning positive dividends today.

DISCUSSION

- I have a cousin who is always trying to get me to invest in some business that he's excited about. First it was Christian Coffee, then it was Burial Plots, Jewelry, Gold, or something that requires me to invest in at least six other people who will turn and invest in others. Call me crazy but I just don't see that model as a viable investment. Call it a pyramid scheme or inverted business model or whatever, I call it a waste of my time.
- Some investments, like the ones my cousin want me to be a part of are easy to see the cost. Others are more difficult. When we talk about investing in others, it can be difficult to asses the cost and the reward.
 - **What are all the ways you can invest in someone?** (I'll get you started: *Financially, Intellectually, ...*)
- Investments usually cost us something. They cost us money, they cost us time, they cost us missed opportunities for some other option, etc.

• **What types of things have you “spent” with your investments in family, friends, or others?**

- Have someone read [\(1 Thessalonians 3:8\)](#)
 - Please explain why this verse would be meaningful to you?
 - This is actually the verse we’ve chosen to represent the second step in our strategy at Reality Church which is “RISK.” We feel like Life Groups should be all about investment in other’s lives.
 - **How could your Life Group invest in you even more this year?** In other words, tell your Life Group how they can help you this new year.
 - Maybe you want to read through the Bible?
 - Maybe you want to share your faith with a co worker?
 - Share with each other how you can help each other. (THEN WRITE IT DOWN!)
- **Who in your life has made a significant investment in you?** (coach, teacher, married couple, friend, etc).
 - What do you think that investment cost them?
 - What do you think was their motivation for making that investment in you? Were they just being nice or were they hoping to better you in some way?
- TRUTH: It’s ok to have an agenda when making an investment in someone. You can rest assured that Jesus had an agenda when investing into the disciples. However, it all depends on who the investment benefits. If you are making an investment into someone so THEY will benefit, that is called *mission*. If you are making an investment into someone so YOU will benefit, that is called *manipulation*. Jesus did not invest into the disciples so HE would receive anything, rather he invested so OTHERS would benefit.
- Have someone read [\(Matthew 20:28-34\)](#)
 - What does this passage show you about Jesus’ willingness to invest in others?
- Notice Jesus “stopped” (verse 32)
 - Jesus was a busy man. He had just wrapped up ministry in Jericho and was headed toward Jerusalem to do more ministry. He didn’t have to stop but He did.
 - Is it possible for us to miss opportunities to invest in others because we are too busy?
- Notice Jesus had compassion for them (verse 34)
 - It’s not difficult for us to have compassion for something. All it takes is a good television commercial with soft music and sad eyes staring at you.
 - But what would this story be if Jesus had only had compassion for these two blind men. This story is in the Bible because Jesus not only had compassion for them but He did something about it.
- What are you compassionate about in this world?
- What are you doing as a result of that compassion?

APPLY IT

- Being a friend won’t happen by accident: practice “purposeful proximity”
- Being a friend won’t be convenient: sometimes it will cost you something else
- Being a friend won’t be risk-free: it will likely cost you something.
- Ask yourself: “Who is close to me but far from God?”