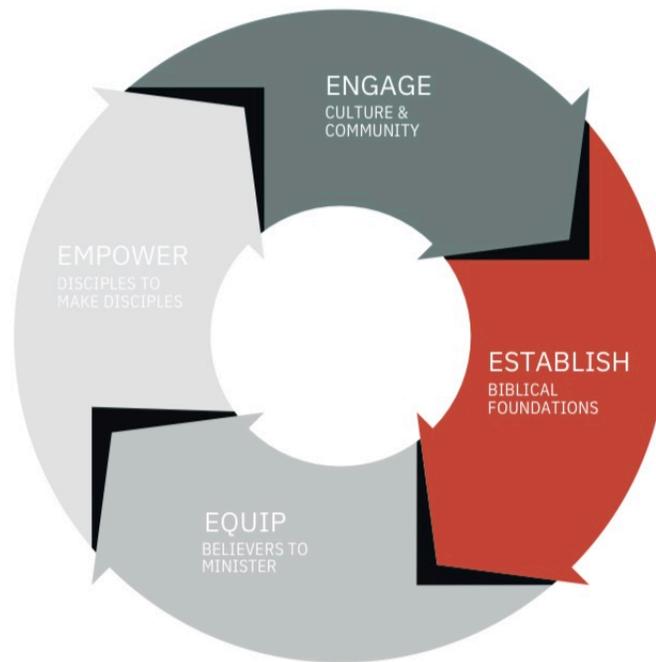


The mission of Rise Up Church is to raise disciples, empower families, and revitalize neighborhoods by the transformational power of the gospel. At Rise Up Church, our discipleship rhythm shapes how we live and expressed in four key movements that we call the 4E's. It is all about following Jesus and helping others do the same.



The purpose of our Koinonia Gatherings is to establish people in biblical foundations by building Christ-centered connections. We believe the Scriptures teaches that life change happens best in community, as we grow together in God's Word and are led by the Holy Spirit.

Below, you'll find a sermon-based guide from the most recent sermon to help lead a Rise Up Church Koinonia Gathering, along with a five day devotional designed to help you apply the sermon throughout the week.

## **Koinonia Gathering: "Come and See" - John 1:35-51**

### **Opening Prayer**

Begin with prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help the group see Jesus clearly and respond in obedience.

### **Ice Breaker (5-10 minutes)**

**Question:** Share a time when you were looking for something that was right in front of you but you couldn't see it. What helped you finally see it?

### **Key Scripture**

**John 1:35-51** - Read the passage aloud together.

### **Main Points from the Sermon**

#### **1. When you see Jesus clearly, you follow Him personally**

- Following Jesus requires physical and relational changes
- It means leaving some things and people behind
- It's a personal relationship, not inherited faith

#### **2. When you see Jesus clearly, you trust Him fully**

- Proximity over distance in your relationship with Jesus
- Burning the boats - no backup plans
- Stopping the search for fulfillment in other things

#### **3. When you see Jesus clearly, you proclaim Him boldly**

- Sharing with those closest to you (often the hardest)
- Inviting others to "come and see"
- Pointing people to Jesus, not just arguing about Him

## Discussion Questions

### Section 1: Seeing Jesus Clearly (15-20 minutes)

1. The pastor mentioned the difference between "eyesight" and "insight" when it comes to seeing Jesus. What does this mean to you? How have you experienced this difference?
2. John positioned himself to see Jesus pass by twice in 48 hours. What does it look like practically to position your life around seeing Jesus daily?
3. When Jesus asked the disciples "What are you seeking?" they asked where He was staying rather than asking for something. Why is this significant? What would you have asked for?

### Section 2: Following Personally (15-20 minutes)

4. The sermon emphasized that following Jesus personally means you can't rely on your parents' faith or your pastor's teaching alone. How would you describe your personal relationship with Jesus versus secondhand faith?
5. The disciples had to physically leave John to follow Jesus. What relationships, places, or habits has Jesus asked you to leave behind? How did you respond?
6. The pastor asked: "What's your boat?" - meaning what backup plan are you keeping in case following Jesus doesn't work out? Be honest with the group about areas where you're holding back from full surrender.

### Section 3: Trusting Fully (15-20 minutes)

7. There's a difference between attending church (distance) and having a relationship with Jesus (proximity). Which best describes your current walk with Christ? What needs to change?
8. Andrew told his brother Peter, "We have found the Messiah" - the one who brings peace in war, provision in need, and hope even in death. How have you experienced Jesus as more than just a good teacher?
9. The pastor said: "Whatever area in your life you're not seeing clearly is probably the very area you're not trusting Him fully." What area of your life is this for you right now? (finances, relationships, career, health, etc.)

## Section 4: Proclaiming Boldly (15-20 minutes)

10. Andrew immediately went to find his brother Peter. Philip went to Nathanael. Who in your life needs you to invite them to "come and see" Jesus? What's holding you back?
11. When Nathanael was skeptical, Philip simply said "Come and see" rather than arguing. Why is invitation more powerful than argumentation? How can you apply this in your evangelism?
12. The pastor shared about the MIT student who finally believed after being told to ask God directly instead of asking more questions. Have you ever invited someone to encounter Jesus for themselves rather than just debating? What happened?

## Practical Application

### Personal Reflection (10 minutes)

Take a few minutes of silence for each person to answer these questions personally:

1. **How do I need to see Jesus more clearly?**
  - As Savior? Provider? Healer? Lord? Friend?
2. **What boat(s) do I need to burn?**
  - Backup plans, relationships, habits, securities, identities
3. **Who is God calling me to invite to "come and see"?**
  - Name specific people

### Group Commitments (10 minutes)

Go around and have each person share ONE specific action they will take this week:

#### Examples:

- "I'm going to burn the boat of \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_"
- "I'm going to invite \_\_\_\_\_ to come to church/small group/coffee"

- "I'm going to spend time daily in God's presence by \_\_\_\_\_"
- "I'm going to surrender \_\_\_\_\_ area of my life to Jesus"

### **Accountability Partners**

Pair up and exchange contact information. Check in with each other during the week about your commitments.

### **Key Takeaways**

- ✓ **Seeing Jesus clearly requires positioning yourself to encounter Him daily**
- ✓ **Following Jesus personally means physical changes - leaving some things behind**
- ✓ **Trusting Jesus fully means burning all backup plans and surrendering completely**
- ✓ **Proclaiming Jesus boldly starts with simple invitation: "Come and see"**
- ✓ **Jesus sees you under your "fig tree" - in your private struggles and prayers**
- ✓ **Your identity is found in what Jesus says about you, not in your circumstances**

### **Four Ways to See Jesus Clearly**

1. **You've got to want to** - Are you a skeptic (open to evidence) or a cynic (closed off)?
2. **Somebody points Him out** - Who is pointing you to Jesus?
3. **Be in His presence** - Where are you staying? (The 10th hour)
4. **Respond with obedience** - Follow when He says "Follow me"

### **Closing Discussion (5 minutes)**

**Final Question:** What's one thing God spoke to you tonight that you don't want to forget?

## Closing Prayer

Have someone pray over the group, specifically:

- For eyes to see Jesus clearly
- For courage to burn the boats
- For boldness to proclaim Him
- For the specific people named who need to be invited to "come and see"

## Before Next Week

- Read John 2:1-25
- Practice inviting someone to "come and see" Jesus
- Follow through on your commitment shared with the group
- Check in with your accountability partner

## Leader Notes

- **Be vulnerable first** - Share your own "boats" that need burning
- **Create a safe space** - Remind the group that what's shared stays in the group
- **Don't rush** - If conversation is rich on one question, stay there
- **Follow the Spirit** - Be willing to adjust if the Spirit is moving in a particular direction
- **End on time** - Respect people's schedules while maximizing depth

## 5-Day Devotional: Come and See Jesus Clearly

### Day 1: Positioning Yourself to See Jesus

**Reading:** John 1:35-39

**Devotional:** John the Baptist positioned himself to see Jesus pass by two days in a row. This wasn't coincidence—it was intentional pursuit. How are you arranging your life to encounter Jesus daily? Seeing Jesus clearly requires deliberate choices: opening Scripture, creating space for prayer, and removing distractions that cloud your vision. John didn't just glance at Jesus; he beheld Him—a spectacular, attention-grabbing moment that changed everything. Today, ask yourself: What adjustments do I need to make to position myself for a divine encounter? Are you attending church from a distance, or pursuing proximity with the Savior? The disciples didn't ask for miracles or provision; they simply asked, "Where are you staying?" They chose intimacy over information. Choose proximity today.

### Day 2: Following Jesus Personally

**Reading:** Mark 8:34-38

**Devotional:** When Jesus walked by, the disciples physically left John to follow Him. Following Jesus personally sometimes means leaving relationships, neighborhoods, and habits behind. This isn't about legalism—it's about lordship. What relationships are keeping you from following Jesus fully? What locations or lifestyles must you abandon? The disciples didn't know where Jesus was taking them, yet they followed. Your personal relationship with Jesus cannot be inherited from your parents or borrowed from your pastor. It requires you to read Scripture for yourself, pray for yourself, and submit your desires to Him. Following Jesus isn't a spectator sport conducted from a safe distance. It's a daily decision to burn the boats of retreat and trust Him with the unknown journey ahead.

### Day 3: Trusting Jesus Fully

**Reading:** Proverbs 3:5-6; Psalm 32:1-2

**Devotional:** Andrew proclaimed, "We have found the Messiah"—the one who brings peace in war, provision in lack, and eternal life even in death. When you see Jesus clearly, you stop searching for security in bank accounts, affirmation in relationships, or comfort in temporary things. Trusting Jesus fully means burning every backup plan, every boat that represents retreat. What's your boat? Education? Financial security? A

relationship you're clinging to? Jesus told Nathanael, "In you there is no deceit"—proclaiming blessing before Nathanael even took his first step of faith. God sees something in you that no one else can see. He's already written your name in the Book of Life. Will you trust Him with your future, your family, your fears? Full trust eliminates the need to keep searching.

#### **Day 4: Proclaiming Jesus Boldly**

**Reading:** Acts 4:13-20

**Devotional:** Philip didn't just whisper about Jesus—he proclaimed Him as the fulfillment of Moses, the prophets, and all Scripture. When you see Jesus clearly, proclamation becomes inevitable. You can't contain what transforms you. Notice Philip's evangelism strategy when Nathanael expressed skepticism: "Come and see." Bold proclamation isn't about volume or arguing; it's about invitation. Who needs your invitation today? Proclaiming Jesus boldly means testifying to His rescue when you were at your worst, His provision when there was no way, His peace that defies circumstances. It means pointing skeptics directly to Jesus rather than depending solely on your apologetics. Don't ask me—ask Him. When you encounter Jesus personally, you cannot help but share Him publicly. Your testimony is powerful. Use it boldly today.

#### **Day 5: Jesus Sees You Under Your Fig Tree**

**Reading:** Psalm 139:1-18; Daniel 7:13-14

**Devotional:** Jesus told Nathanael, "I saw you under the fig tree"—a place of meditation, wrestling, and prayer. Where's your fig tree? That place where you cry silent tears, ask hard questions, and wonder if God sees your struggle? Jesus declares today: I see you. The single parent trying desperately. The one battling mental anguish. The person worried about tomorrow. Jesus sees something in you that no one else can—your pure heart, your sincere faith, your hidden potential. He proclaimed Himself the Son of Man, the eternal King whose dominion never ends, the access point between heaven and earth. You're not stuck under that fig tree. He's calling you out to follow Him, to see greater things. The skeptic inside you whispers doubt, but Jesus proclaims blessing. Will you come and see Him clearly today?