

Small Group Questions
February 3, 2019
Series: Starting Point
Message: "Who's it for?"

This series continues in the Sermon on the Mount. The focus of this series is Jesus' vision for the church, i.e. us, because the church is followers of Jesus. The heart of God reaches out to all people, all the time. When we enter a relationship with Jesus, it's surprisingly easy to come to believe that the church is for me. Of course, we want to see people reached but our time with God can be focused on ourselves while we are unsure of how others will be reached. The mission of the Master must become the mission of His men, women and children. That does not mean debating or berating but reaching out with the same heart God has for all. There will come a day when it will be eternally too late. Until that day, may we express God's desire in positive actions and words to people who matter so much to Him.

An application to groups through this series can include having an outward focus. In a group, we can reach a place where we enjoy one another, and that's great. In addition to that, how can we, together, express God's reaching heart? That may be creating more space in the group. It might mean "birthing" a new group if our group is too large for new members to join. It might mean serving in Jesus' name in the community so that we engage people there. Perhaps your group can come up with a creative way different than any of those ideas. The spiritual adventure that changes so much happens when we move beyond ourselves and enter the world of people who have yet to meet and follow Jesus.

Thank you for what you do to care for all who are in and around your group. Know that you are making an eternal difference!

(Questions to get everyone to participate)

1. What was your best birthday party growing up? Why?
2. How do you feel when someone declines your invitation to something important to you?

(Questions based on the primary texts)

Read Matthew 5:1-3.

3. What comes to your mind when Jesus talks of "the Kingdom of heaven?" (:3)
4. According to Jesus, who has access to the "Kingdom of heaven?" What describes them?

Read Luke 14:15-24.

5. In the parable, who are the invited guests? Why don't they come?
6. Who are the guests who eventually come to the feast? What would their reaction be? Why?
7. On what basis are they invited? What does that teach us about the "Kingdom of God?"
8. In what ways can your group live out this picture of God's heart? How can this be made real?

