



BRING LIFE
WHEN IT'S TOUGH

SESSION 5

BRING LIFE WHEN IT'S TOUGH

CHECK IN

How did your assignment go last week as you attempted to bring life to 2 or 3 by inviting them to “come and see” Jesus?

TOES-IN-THE-WATER

Not only are we uniquely wired and have unique combinations of gifts, talents, and interests...our personalities are different, as well. Some of us more naturally enjoy time alone or with a close friend. Others of us enjoy meeting new people and spending time with a larger group of friends.

Q1: What do you more naturally enjoy? Spending time alone? With a good friend? Or with a group of friends?

WATCH THE VIDEO NOW (and use the space below to take notes)

GET READY

Every time Jesus sent his followers to bring life to others, he sent them together. Often in pairs. Sometimes in groups. He often took his followers with him and they went together.

Read Luke 5:17-26:

“One day while Jesus was teaching, some Pharisees and teachers of religious law were sitting nearby. (It seemed that these men showed up from every village in all Galilee and Judea, as well as from Jerusalem.) And the Lord’s healing power was strongly with Jesus.

Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a sleeping mat. They tried to take him inside to Jesus, but they couldn’t reach him because of the crowd. So they went up to the roof and took off some tiles. Then they lowered the sick man on his mat down into the crowd, right in front of Jesus. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the man, “Young man, your sins are forgiven.”

But the Pharisees and teachers of religious law said to themselves, “Who does he think he is? That’s blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!”

Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he asked them, “Why do you question this in your hearts? Is it easier to say ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or ‘Stand up and walk’? So I will prove to you that the Son of Man[d] has the authority on earth to forgive sins.” Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, “Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!”

And immediately, as everyone watched, the man jumped up, picked up his mat, and went home praising God. Everyone was gripped with great wonder and awe, and they praised God, exclaiming, “We have seen amazing things today!”

Q2: What can we learn about bringing life together from this story in Luke?

Q3: What are some reasons bringing life together might be better?

King David’s son, Solomon, is often referred to as the wisest man who ever lived. In addition to much of the Book of Proverbs, he wrote Ecclesiastes, included with the wisdom books of the Old Testament.

Ecclesiastes 4:10-12 is one of the best known passages:

“Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.”

Ecclesiastes 4:10-12

Q4: What might be some additional reasons we are better together?

TAKE ACTION

As you work through this section, consider sub-grouping into groups of 2 or 3. Have a conversation about the three ideas below:

1. Take some time right now to consider ways that you can bring life together with others. With your family? With your life-group? With close friends? Maybe a party, a trip, an invitation to your work group or gym
What could you offer, inviting people to come and see what following is Jesus is like by being together with you and a few others who follow Jesus.
2. Take praying for others from session 2 to the next level. Go for a walk together around your neighborhoods praying for each home and everyone you know.
3. Take it another step, get together with a friend or two. Go to a public place and see how many people you have kind conversations with. As God leads, talk about your faith and about Jesus. Invite others to any appropriate next step. This one can be scary, but is so amazing to see how God leads and what he does with your boldness.

Finish this sentence: To be life-bringers together, we (names here) will...

PRAY TOGETHER

One way we can be united is by committing to pray for one another. Take some time as a group to share your prayer requests. Be sure to record everyone's requests on the Prayer Notes on page 152.