

Sermon Series: On Map On Mission!

Discipleship Phrase: I Belong

Big Idea for Series: Inviting people INTO meaningful relationship with God and each other.

Shepherding *[know the sheep, feed the sheep, lead the sheep, protect the sheep]*

HAVE YOU EVER? As a shepherd of people, **have you ever** disciplined someone that despite all your efforts to love them, care for them, encourage them, and show them God's purpose for their life, they still wandered back into their past life of brokenness and sin? It may sound discouraging to hear a question like that, but the reality is, we all have had moments where we felt like our leading and shepherding of people was not making the difference we had hoped. I want to encourage you to remember this principle: *As followers of Christ, we are all called and equipped by God to help carry the burdens of others. We have not been called to carry the loads of others that only they were called and equipped to carry.* Take time this week to pray for the burdens of those you are shepherding. They might need a text or phone call from you to show them how much you care. On the other hand, ask God to reveal the loads that you have been carrying that you need to drop. GOD is the SAVIOR & SUSTAINER they need...you were called **only** to point others into a relationship with HIM so that HE can be their help!!

For the Apprentice *[opportunities for the apprentice to shepherd the group throughout the week]*

This week, allow your **apprentice** to lead and facilitate the group discussion as you focus more on participation and engaging with the discussion. If your apprentice needs coaching, be there to support them! This may enable you to focus more on shepherding the needs of your group throughout the week rather than focusing on preparing the curriculum. **If you are actively preparing and discipling your apprentice(s) to branch the group by the end of the current series or near future, please maximize one-on-one meetings with them to coach, support, and pray with them.**

Feedback *[it is important to debrief in order to get better]*

Each week after group, block off a time with your apprentice to talk about group and share feedback. Discuss ways to promote healthy dynamics in your group time. Feedback questions **this week** to consider:

- Are there group members that have not been attending consistently that we need pursue?
- How are we doing in our approach to intentionally touch base with the spiritual needs of our group?
- What are some leadership opportunities we need to INVITE other group members INTO within the next few weeks?

God-Stories *[each week you encourage to invite your group members to share God-Stories from the previous week]*

A God-Story is an undeniable encounter or experience with God that creates an impact or breakthrough in a person's day to day life. These moments can be extraordinary, such as healing of cancer or they can be very humble, such as a family member who prayed for the very first time.

BackgroundPLUS® *[a deeper dive into this week's story]*

- In the Old Testament, prophets, priests, and kings were anointed for consecrated service - Jesus fulfilled all three offices - Prophet (*Deuteronomy 18:15*), Priest (*Hebrews 4:14*), and King (*Revelation 19:16*).
- The key word in the book is the verb "believe," which appears 98 times.
- John probably wrote this gospel to convince unbelievers that Jesus was the Son of God, and to give Christians, who faced persecution, confidence in their Savior.
- **The Bible Project** - [John 1-12](#)

"Every group deserves a great group leader..."

Week 3 - Topic: INTO

Takeaway: It's not enough to invite someone TO something, I must invite them INTO something - to accompany them on the journey God has them on.

Welcome / Open in Prayer

Introductions: *[Share the topic & takeaway this week from above]*

- **Review from Last Week:** *[Build in accountability to living it out]*
- **God-Stories:** *[See Leader Page for description fo God-Stories].*
- **Review the Guidelines:** *[Share the guidelines to set the rails for group time]*

Ask a Hook Question: *[A thought-provoking question to get the group focused]*

- When is it better to ride solo?

Share Background for the Story: *[Provide context to the story from the Bible]*

At this point in John's account, Jesus had already spent His forty days being tempted in wilderness, and He has already been baptized. John's daily diary records a 3-day period in which John has a conversation with some religious leaders pointing out that he is not the prophet they were expecting. The following day, Jesus passes by and he points to his own disciples "Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the whole world. Now, on day three, Jesus walks by John the Baptist and two of his disciples.

Share the Story: [John 1:35 - 49](#) *[Volunteer from last week shares the story]*

Rebuild the Story *[Invites everyone to engage]*

Read from Scripture *[Read out loud to see if anything was added or omitted]*

Discussion Questions: *[Dive deeper, beyond the surface]*

1. How were Simon Peter and Nathaniel introduced to Jesus?
2. What was significant about Andrew and Philip's invite to Simon Peter and Nathaniel?
3. Who do you identify with in this story? Why?
4. What are you being invited into?
5. Who are you inviting to journey with you?

Assign Next Week's Story: [Mark 1:29-39](#)

Prayer Requests: *[Record, share & follow up throughout the week]*

Closing Prayer: *[Ask openly for a volunteer]*

Inviting people into meaningful relationship with God and each other.