

UNDER CONSTRUCTION: DISCUSSION GUIDE 1

ABOUT THIS SERIES

As St. Mark enters into our first phase of construction, it's a chance to consider how it's a fitting metaphor for what God is doing in your life. Conversion happens in a moment, but becoming like Jesus is a process. In our series *Under Construction*, you'll learn how discipleship, like construction, requires a plan, demolition, setbacks, and consistency. But in the middle of all the dust and debris, God is building something beautiful!

ITEMS NEEDED

☐ Bibles

CHECKLIST BEFORE YOUR GROUP ARRIVES

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pray for your group | <input type="checkbox"/> Read through the Discussion Guide | <input type="checkbox"/> Refreshments (optional) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clean meeting area | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean bathroom | <input type="checkbox"/> Crack front door |

OPENING (10 MIN)

After a general welcome, say: First off, welcome to our Small Group! This will be our group for the next several months. I'm excited to get to know everyone in our group better.

As a part of our launch, we're going to pass around two things. One, our *Contact List* to verify that we have everyone's information correct. And two, a sheet called the *Small Group Expectations* just so we're clear on some ground rules for our group. I'll read it, and then we'll each sign it.

Host, read the Small Group Covenant, then pass it around with a pen and the Contact List.

Then, say: As you sign the Small Group Expectations, let's get started with an icebreaker like we'll do each week. This week's question is simple though.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME AND WHEN DID YOU START GOING TO ST. MARK?

After a brief discussion, say: Well, whatever brought you to St. Mark, we're glad because it also brought you here to this Small Group! Every week we'll go deeper into the current series at St. Mark, and along the way we'll serve together and start to do life together.

Today, we're going to go deeper into our *Under Construction* series. But first, let's open with a quick prayer asking God to bless our time together.

OPENING PRAYER (1 MIN)

Host, lead the group in prayer.

BE LIKE CHRIST (10-15 MIN)

After a prayer, say: Christians and non-Christians know that followers of Jesus are supposed to be like Jesus. But in the series *Under Construction* we're going to talk about why it matters, why it's hard, and how it can be easier.

So we started in week 1 with a discussion on the blueprint of being like Christ.

ONE WORD ANSWER ONLY—WHERE DO YOU THINK WE NEED TO SEE CHRISTIANS ACTING LIKE CHRIST RIGHT NOW?

After a discussion, say: I'm sure we'd all like to say more than one word, but we have a discussion to get to! Fortunately, being like Christ is not a vague concept. When we read the gospels, we also get an incredibly detailed picture of what Christ was like—his personality, his character. He was fully God and fully man.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE JESUS' PERSONALITY IN THE FOLLOWING VERSES?

LUKE 7:13

MARK 3:5

JOHN 11:33

MARK 8:11-12

LUKE 10:21

After a discussion, say: On Sunday we saw a chart that said, "Be like Christ means" and then it listed adjectives and verbs:

Serve like Christ
Suffer like Christ
Bless like Christ
Thank like Christ
Speak like Christ
Give like Christ
Trust like Christ
Grace like Christ
Truth like Christ
Confront like Christ
Comfort like Christ

Pray like Christ
Preach like Christ
Prioritize like Christ
Self-Control like Christ
Resist like Christ
Rest like Christ
Surrender like Christ
Worship like Christ
Hunger like Christ
Lead like Christ
Teach like Christ

Humble like Christ
Forgive like Christ
Welcome like Christ
Weep like Christ
Rejoice like Christ
Anger like Christ
Defend like Christ
Peace like Christ
Live like Christ
Die like Christ
Love like Christ

WHICH ONE OF THOSE WORDS DO YOU MOST NEED AND, IF YOU'RE COMFORTABLE SHARING, WHY?

WORK OF THE SPIRIT (5–7 MIN)

After a discussion, say: In week 2 of our series, we talked about demolition. And we talked about how becoming like Christ isn't up to us.

CAN SOMEONE READ PHILIPPIANS 2:13 ALOUD FOR US?

HOW DOES IT BRING YOU HOPE OR ENCOURAGEMENT TO KNOW THAT YOU HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT IN YOU REMINDING YOU TO BE LIKE JESUS AND HELPING YOU DO IT?

After a discussion, say: We'll pray that God will make that a reality for us both in the near future and in this year through our Small Group.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (3 MIN)

Before we pray, just one quick announcement—

HAPPY THANKS GIVEAWAY

Small Groups are being given the first chance to sign up to help with our Happy Thanks

Giveaway to help put 100 turkeys and meals on the table of Battle Creek families in need. If you go to the Hub on our website (www.stmark.net) you'll find a link to the Sign Up Genius form.

It's the morning of Saturday, November 22nd and it'd be a lot of fun if our Small Group could serve together! There are two shifts and different roles—from 7:30 AM to 10:00 AM or another shift from 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM.

CLOSING PRAYER (5 – 7 MIN)

We'll pray about becoming like Christ but, before we do—

ARE THERE ANY OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS TODAY?

Host, after taking prayer requests. Then, close the group in prayer. Start by praying for the Holy Spirit to help your group be like Christ, both this week and in the year ahead through your Small Group. End with the group's individual prayer requests.