

Small Group Guide

WHO WE ARE...AND WHAT WE DO

Rescued People Rescue People

MAIN SCRIPTURE Matthew 22:34-40; Matthew 28:16-20

MAIN IDEA God did not simply rescue us from something. He rescued us for something. Because we have been rescued by Jesus, we are called to love God, love people, and make Jesus known. Our rescue should move us to point others toward the One who rescued us.

Opening Question

What is something you learned as a child - a song, saying, Bible verse, or memory trick - that you can still remember almost word for word today?

Begin the Conversation

NorthField's mission is:

Love God. Love people. Make Jesus known.

Our core values help us understand what that mission looks like when we live it out. Every core value begins with the same two words: Rescued People.

1. Why is it important that our identity as rescued people comes before anything we do for God?

Read Matthew 22:34-40

1. Loving God and Loving People

Jesus brings together two Old Testament commands: love God with everything you are, and love your neighbor as yourself.

2. Why do you think Jesus said the second command was "like" the first?
3. What does loving God look like beyond simply believing in God or attending church?
4. Why is it impossible to genuinely love God while consistently refusing to love people?

"All roads from loving God lead to loving people."

5. Where have you seen your love for God change the way you treat, forgive, serve, or care for people?

Read Matthew 28:16-20

2. Worship and Doubt

Matthew tells us that the eleven disciples worshiped Jesus, but some doubted.

6. What surprises or encourages you about that detail?
7. Have you ever assumed that questions or struggles meant your faith was weak?
8. What do you notice about Jesus' response to the disciples' doubt?

Jesus did not move away from them. He moved toward them. He knew their questions, fears, limitations, and past failures, and He still chose to use them.

9. How might that truth encourage someone who is struggling with unanswered questions right now?

3. "All Authority"

Before Jesus told the disciples to go, He said:

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me."

10. Why do you think Jesus began the Great Commission by establishing His authority?
11. How should His authority affect the way we respond to His commands?
12. Where are you most tempted to debate, delay, or negotiate with Jesus rather than obey Him?

The disciples were not sent because they had every answer or never struggled with doubt. They were sent because the One sending them had all authority.

13. What fear might lose some of its power if you truly believed Jesus has authority over it?

4. Making Disciples

Jesus did not say, "Go and make church attenders." He said:

"Go and make disciples."

14. What is the difference between a church attender and a disciple?
15. According to Matthew 28:19-20, what is involved in making disciples?
16. Who helped you understand what it means to follow Jesus?
17. Who might God be asking you to encourage, teach, invite, or walk beside?

Making Jesus known is not limited to pastors, missionaries, or naturally outgoing people. It is part of the mission Jesus gave to every person He has rescued.

5. The Coca-Cola Challenge

The message described how Coca-Cola began with one five-cent glass in one Atlanta drugstore and eventually reached remote villages around the world.

"A beverage company has often done a better job carrying its product to the nations than the Church has done carrying the greatest news in the world."

18. What part of that comparison challenged you most?
19. What can the Church learn from the determination to cross borders, learn languages, build partnerships, and reach difficult places?
20. Why is it easier to admire the Great Commission than to personally participate in it?

Nearly three billion people remain unreached by the gospel. But every large number represents an individual person - someone created in God's image and loved by Jesus.

21. How can we keep worldwide missions from becoming only a statistic rather than a matter of the heart?

6. Across the Street and Around the World

Making Jesus known may involve traveling across an ocean, but it also begins with the people already around us.

22. Who has God placed in your everyday life who may not know Jesus?
23. What makes it difficult for you to begin a spiritual conversation?
24. Which feels most realistic as a next step: telling your story, inviting someone, serving a need, praying intentionally, giving, or going?
25. What could our group do together to help make Jesus known locally?

Personal Application

The message closed with a series of questions:

- Will I tell my story?
- Will I invite someone?
- Will I cross the street?
- Will I give generously?
- Will I pray for the nations?
- Will I go when Jesus opens the door?
- Will I place my time, voice, resources, influence, and life in Jesus' hands?

Choose one person and one action for this week.

The person God has placed on my heart:

The step I will take:

Closing Challenge

Casual Christianity will not carry the gospel to the ends of the earth. A faith built around comfort will struggle to cross the street, much less cross an ocean.

Jesus is not asking us to fit His mission into whatever space remains after we have finished building the lives we want. He is calling us to surrender our lives to His mission.

Discuss this question together:

"What part of my life may still need to be surrendered so that Jesus can use me to make His name known?"

Prayer

Invite the group to pray for:

- One person in their lives who does not yet know Jesus.
- Courage to speak, invite, serve, give, or go.
- Missionaries and churches working among unreached people.
- People who are wrestling with painful questions, asking God to help them hold more tightly to Jesus.

- A willingness to live with open hands and surrendered lives.

Close with this prayer:

Jesus, thank You for coming after us and rescuing us. Help us never become so comfortable in our rescue that we forget those who are still searching for hope. Give us courage to tell our story, share Your story, and point people toward You. Use our time, abilities, resources, influence, and lives to make Your name known across the street and around the world. Amen.

RESCUED PEOPLE RESCUE PEOPLE.