Ice Breaker

- Are you a morning or night time person and what is a benefit of your time schedule?

I. Following Jesus

John 1:43-51 (NIV)

Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." 44 Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. 45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote--Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." . . . 50 Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that." 51 He then added, "I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

1. Jesus just told the disciples something extremely hard if not impossible to comprehend. Discuss the conversation that may have happened after this conversation. How would you have processed this information? What was Jesus objective in relaying this information?

A. Learning, Growing & Experiencing God’s Glory

Mark 4:36-41 (NIV)

36 Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. 37 A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. 38 Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" 39 He get up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. 40 He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" 41 They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

2. Why do you think Jesus waited to calm the storm? Why would Jesus have to remind them to "not be afraid"? What does Jesus equate fear to? What types of scenarios in your life create fear and how can applying this truth help?

Matthew 14:16-21 (NIV)

16 Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." 17 “We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. . . . 20 They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. 21 The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Luke 7:11-16 (NIV)

11 Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. 12 As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out--the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. 13 When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry." 14 Then he went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" 15 The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother. 16 They were all filled with awe and praised God.

3. Discuss the above scriptures from Matthew and Luke. How does Jesus help the disciples experience the glory of the Lord....the majesty, power & wonder of the Lord? Recall a time where you experienced God’s power/majesty?

4. Following Jesus is a pathway to “another level of living”. How have you experienced this or where in your life do you need to experience this?
B. Fails
Matthew 14:30 (NIV®)
30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

John 14:4-5 (NIV®)
4 You know the way to the place where I am going." 5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

5. Read the above scriptures and discuss the struggle to understand and to process what they were living through. God initiates change that we would never initiate, that is often difficult to process. Do you recall a time when God was moving in your life but it was only after the completed process you could understand what He was doing on your behalf?

C. Empowered & Entrusted
Matthew 10:1, 37-39 (NIV®)
1 He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. . .37 “Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; 38 and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Luke 10:1-3 (NIV)
1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. 2 He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. 3 Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.

6. What does Jesus empower the disciples to do? Who else does He recruit? We go out with His authority but also a warning...What is it? Describe a time you stepped out in faith and felt defenseless like a sheep but experienced Jesus help and protection.

John 16:12-14 (NIV)
12 "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.

7. What is the function of the Spirit of truth?

D. Finding the Way Forward
Read Acts 5:14-16 (NIV)  (tremendous miracles)

Read Acts 12:1-5 (NIV)  (unrelenting opposition)
8. What was the spiritual condition described in Acts 5 for the towns surrounding Jerusalem? What was the opposition that followed?
9. Do you imagine that in the midst of revival we also would experience opposition? How do you see this in our world today?
10. What steps of courage would you have to take to face the opposition Paul faced?

Prayer
Heavenly Father, you have called me from an empty way of life into the Kingdom of Your Son. You have opened my eyes and set my feet on a new path. Give me wisdom and courage to follow you. I choose to follow Jesus, take up my cross and complete the course for which I was created. May the name of Jesus be exalted in all the earth. Amen

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