

# SCRIPTURE CARD GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

"EVERYONE'S INVITED TO CELEBRATE" JANUARY 8 & 9

## SERIES OVERVIEW:

What does it mean to FOLLOW Jesus?

In our world today we lift the value of being a leader and making our own independent choice; to be a follower is not seen as a good thing. And yet when it comes to living out our faith in Jesus, there is no greater call and joy than to follow. In this series we will be looking at all of the blessings and challenges that come from Jesus' call to follow Him. Rooted in the truth that Jesus knows us, we are moved to a place where we listen and obey His call to follow Him.

*Follow the directions below for a guided group discussion with a friend, in a family, small group, etc.*

*Grab a Scripture Card (printed or electronic) and simply follow steps from 1 to 6 on this page and the next.*

1

## OPENING PRAYER AND PRAISE:

*About 2 minutes*

Pray aloud together this prayer based on John 10:27, "Jesus, lead me to listen to Your voice & follow You. Amen." Ask 6 volunteers to read one verse each aloud from Psalm 126 as an opening praise to God.

2

## BIG IDEA:

*About 1 minute to read*

Today we conclude our Follow series, but it is only the beginning of this two year journey we will be on together. Today, everyone's invited to CELEBRATE.

3

## INTRO QUESTIONS:

*About 10 minutes*

Think of a time you lost something and then it was restored/made right again. (For example: a broken bone healed, cancer in remission, a lost pet found, trust restored in a close relationship, lost job replaced with better one.) How did you feel when you received back what had been lost? How did you share the news or celebrate?



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"He was lost, but now he is found." So the party began. - Luke 15:24b NLT

## Reflect

**Read the full passage in your Bible - Luke 15:11-24.**

What word or phrase is the Holy Spirit highlighting from the scripture reading?

What might be God's invitation to you in this?

What might be God's challenge to you in this?

How might God be calling you to respond?  
Be curious...and then do it.



## DISCUSSION HELP:

Use follow-up questions to take the discussion deeper. Guide answers to be honest and real.

**Can you say more about that?**

**How have you seen that play out in your life?**

**What does that stir up in you?**

**Has anyone else had a similar thought or experience?**

**What might God be inviting you to do?**

4

## SCRIPTURE READING + GROUP DISCUSSION

*About 45 minutes*

In Luke 15 Jesus shares three parables in response to the Pharisees: the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son. What do you think Jesus wants us to know about the love of the Father through these parables?

The father in this parable lavishes on the returning son: a robe, a ring, sandals, a feast, and a celebration. How does our culture generally celebrate milestones or good news? Do you celebrate good things from God in the same ways? Why or why not?

Read Romans 8:38-39. How do these verses encourage you in the next 2 years of the WLC FOLLOW initiative and in your personal walk as a follower of Jesus?

## 5 LIVE IT OUT:

About 10 minutes


Discuss in pairs: How have you seen God's goodness in your life this week?

How does this question bring about gratitude?

Read the "Live it Out" Section on the Scripture card.

What practical and simple ways could you celebrate the gift of life this week? Share your thoughts with your discussion partner now.

# TAKE IT DEEPER



## Live It Out

*What would it look like to just invite some friends and neighbors over for a little party sometime this week? Pray and imagine a simple celebration that invites people to connect and practice gratitude for the gift of life. Make a plan (remember, keep it simple) and invite some people!*

## Pray

Offer God prayers of thanksgiving, celebrating all the ways he has welcomed you, ways he has poured out his love and grace into your life and through your life.

Who needs to hear the grace-filled words of Jesus, welcoming them home? Pray for them.

Thank God for FOLLOW and how he is using this focus in the WLC Family and beyond.

## 6

## CLOSING GROUP PRAYER:

About 5 minutes

Read the prayer section on the card aloud, and take a moment for each person to reflect on the prayer prompt personally.

The leader may read aloud the prayer below, leaving time for each person to fill in the blank with one word or a brief phrase.

*"Dear God, you are a good, good Father who loves us no matter what. Thank you for seeking after us and saving us through your Son, Jesus. Help us to live our lives for you in abundant joy and thanksgiving. We specifically want to thank you for these ways you have poured out your love and grace in our lives now \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Jesus, we also know people in our lives who need your grace and love in their life. We lift up their first name only to you now \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Jesus, through You we have hope, forgiveness, healing, joy, and peace. Help us to celebrate what you have done for us each and every day. Lead us as Your Church and as Your disciples. Help us to live life worthy to be called Your followers. Jesus, lead us to listen to your voice and to follow you. Amen."*