

Welcome

Are you more of a city person or a countryside person?

Or

When you started your faith journey did you believe, belong or behave first?



Worship

Read Psalm 145:8–13 together or in alternate verses

And/or

Sing or listen to *Jesus Shall Reign*



Word

Read Matthew 4.12-25

1. *Question 1 is optional. I have placed this in here for groups which are wanting a weekly pattern of study to help them keep the same pattern for the weeks when studies aren't prepared by me. Spend 15 minutes before the study thinking about the sub-questions below before coming to your group.*



Before you begin the study form groups of two or three and have each person summarize the passage to the other one. Then, come back to the group and ask

- a. *What stands out to you?*
- b. *Where is God?*
- c. *Where are we?*
- d. *Since this is the word of God, what do I need to change in my life?*

Though we are on many journeys in which we might believe, belong and behave in different orders, Matthew lays out the way where we begin the journey for ourselves where we are offered faith, invited to be part of his kingdom and to live in it.

2. Believe

- a. Why do you think Matthew is so careful to locate Jesus in Galilee?
- b. Jesus says: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." How is repentance described here punishment or invitation?

3. Belong

- a. What stands out to you about how Jesus calls the first disciples, and how they respond?
- b. Jesus doesn't give the disciples a full plan, just a call to follow. What might

that teach us about trust and discipleship?

4. Behave

- a. What pattern do you notice in Jesus' ministry (teaching, proclaiming, healing), and why do all three matter?
- b. Why is it significant that Jesus serves people before they *fully* understand Him?
- c. How might this explain how we live the Christian life publicly?

Witness

- Where might God be inviting you to make His kingdom feel 'near' to someone this week?

