

WHO ARE MY TEAMMATES?

THE GAME PLAN

1. Test the DVD and other electronics.
2. Prepare the room for an effective group time.
3. Have a personal journal available for each participant.
4. Pray (with your co-leaders or apprentices if you have them) for the session and each participant.
5. Study the material closely. Watch the DVD for this session twice and take notes.

HUDDLING UP

1. If this is a new group, be sure to introduce yourself and ask participants to introduce themselves, as well.
2. Ask: *How would you define the word “revival?”*
3. Share an experience from your school days when you were chosen for something: a team, a club, an award or to do something special at school (read the announcements, raise the flag, monitor the classroom while the teacher was away, etc.). Share your feelings—positive or negative—about being chosen. Then ask the rest of the group to share similar stories about being chosen for something during their school years.
4. As Tony Evans said, the issue of racial reconciliation won't be resolved through social structures, but only by God and on his terms. How have you seen that truth being played out in our society lately?
5. Point out the “notes” section for each session in the *Participant's Guide & Personal Journal*. (Be sure each person has a writing instrument.)

WATCH EPISODE ONE

As Dave said at the beginning of the video, it's my prayer, as well, that our time together leads to spiritual renewal and revival. I also want to encourage you to be faithful throughout this six-week series. Please make it a priority and expect that God will do something significant in all our lives.

Let's discuss what we just saw.

- What was your favorite clip from this week's video? Why?
- What were you thinking or feeling as you watched?
- How have you seen a common goal—both having one and knowing what the right goal line is—bring unity?

THE PLAYBOOK

As Dave mentioned, in this first lesson we're going to look at how Jesus assembled his team. Jesus chose 12 very ordinary men for his group and spent considerable time with them over a three-year period. He ministered with them, used teachable moments to train them, modeled compassion and other leadership attributes they would eventually need, and eventually entrusted them with the task of starting the church and advancing the Good News so it would be taken to all nations. It was vital that Jesus chose his team wisely!

Ask someone to read Luke 6:12-16.

Jesus had already asked each of these men to follow him, so in a sense, they were already his “disciples.” But now he called 12 out of the larger group of his followers to be a part of this special small group, which the Bible calls the “apostles.” (Apostle literally means a messenger or one who is sent.)

- 1 What does verse 12 indicate to you about the vitality of Jesus' selection of the right people?
- 2 What does that verse tell you about the character of Jesus?

Jesus was always totally dependent on and lived in submission to his heavenly Father. Listen to a couple of Jesus' statements about this dependent relationship with the Father. (Ask three people to read one of the following verses. They are in the Participant's Guide.)

- "... the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does" (John 5:19).
- "For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me" (John 6:38).
- "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them ... " (John 6:44).

Follow up: What do these verses add to your understanding about Jesus and how he chose the right men?

- 3 Imagine you are one of these chosen disciples. What would you be thinking and feeling? Undeserving? Scared? Honored? Humbled? Loved? Something else?

Years later, toward the end of this internship, just before Jesus was arrested and sentenced to death, he met with his disciples to comfort, encourage and empower them. As he did, he reminded them about the time when he selected them.

Ask someone to read John 15:9-17.

- 4 Why is love key to being a part of Jesus' team?
- 5 In what ways did Jesus choose them and in what ways did they choose to be on Jesus' team?
- 6 When you choose to be on Jesus' team, what does that imply about who "calls the plays" in your life?
- 7 In Dave Stone's interview with Tony Evans, Dr. Evans said, "We're under one banner, the banner of the Lordship of Jesus Christ, representing this one kingdom, which he oversees." How does being under that one banner affect how our team works together?

When Tony Nathan chose to be on the Woodlawn team, he put himself under the authority of Coach Gerald. He had to listen to him, obey him and submit to his leadership.

Our first priority is to choose Jesus. Then, we often get to choose who we will team up with in our quest. It may be someone you're mentoring or whom you've brought along on this faith journey. Sometimes you don't know, and you're thrown with others who share the same convictions. One of the most convicting scenes in the movie is when the team's newfound spiritual commitment leads to "color blindness."

So, what convictions should we consider to become a great team? For the next part of this lesson, we'll subgroup into three teams to discuss three principles.

Direct group members to break into three teams. Assign each team its name and corresponding Scripture passages to read and discuss (see below). The following information is in the Participant's Guide so these teams can use it to help lead their discussions.

DIVERSITY Team

Acts 10:34 and Ephesians 2:14, 19.

Discuss:

- In what ways was Jesus' group diverse?
- Why do you think it took Peter so long to realize what he did in Acts 10?
- How does the Ephesians passage encourage us to treat one another?
- How does diversity make the church stronger and more the way God desires it to be?

LOYALTY Team

John 6:66-69

Discuss:

- What does this passage reveal to you about our choice in being a part of Jesus' team?
- What would it take for the disciples to keep following Jesus even when others were bailing on him?
- In what ways does loyalty build chemistry and cohesiveness on a team?
- How does loyalty make the church stronger and more the way God desires it to be?

MATURITY Team

Acts 5:29, 33, 40-42

Discuss:

- How do you explain the actions of the disciples after they were flogged?
- How did they demonstrate great maturity as followers of Jesus?
- When life gets tough, how can being part of a group of brave teammates help you keep standing strong?
- How does maturity make the church stronger and more the way God desires it to be?

The teams have about 8-10 minutes to read and discuss these Scriptures. Gather the whole group back together afterward and have one person from each team give a one-minute summary of what they learned about what makes a team great.

BREAKING THE HUDDLE

When the Woodlawn team stood up together in their faith in Jesus, they were visually communicating that there was something—or more accurately, someone—who united them. As Dave said in the video, Jesus became the common thread for that team. Instead of looking at the color of one another’s skin as a point of division, they began to look at their common conviction about and belief in Jesus. That’s a picture of the church at its best: a colossal collection of imperfect people who have set aside differences to walk in the same direction with the same purpose.

PRAYER

Close your time together in prayer. Ask Jesus to unite your group and church as only he can. Ask God to empower you and your group to link arms and make a difference in your neighborhoods, in your city and in your nation.

MEMORY VERSE

When Christians are unified, God is glorified. Jesus said:

“Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined; and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.”
Matthew 12:25

Memorize that verse this week. In each session, we will have a key Scripture verse to memorize and think about throughout the week. You can write it on an index card and read it throughout the day, or share it online. You can text it to a fellow group member or another friend, or type it in large print on a piece of paper and place in a spot you’ll see throughout your day.

This week, look for some ways to build bridges, and unite with others who may look different, act different and be different from you. Remember: “It only takes one person to start a revolution.”

NEXT UP

Complete the six sections in the Personal Journal before the next group experience. Use these in your daily time with God over the next six days to help you reflect, evaluate, dig deeper into God’s Word and put into practice what you’re learning.