

Lesson 5 – Called to Community – Leader Guide

Leader – If you would like to reach out to your group with some Scripture to read prior to gathering, we recommend Hosea 1, Hosea 2:14-23, and the Book of Ruth.

Opening Discussion: *Leader – Open with discussion of last week's lesson about living and dead water and how important it is to be connected to the source of living water. Hopefully your group has been able to engage with these concepts this past week.*

- Review the contrast of the two waters. Was there any time this week when any of you were tempted to drink dead water from a broken cistern? Conversely, was anyone driven to living water? Anyone willing to share?
- Encourage people to share some rhythms and practices that are helpful in staying connected to the source, Jesus.

Play Video (0:00-20:30)

Video Discussion: *Leader – This session is geared toward breaking down our western concepts of consumerism, rugged individualism and self-sufficiency. We will examine a more biblical mindset that includes community, interdependency and locking arms for the sake of being on mission.*

- In the ancient world people found security, protection, and identity by being a part of the Bet Av. Where do we try to find these things today?
- How do we, in modern times, see family relationships and structures differently than they did in the ancient world?
- What is your experience with family; were you able to derive any of these things from your family of origin?
- Look up Exodus 22:21-24, Deuteronomy 10:18 and Deuteronomy 24:19-24.
 - What do these verses say about how God feels about the fatherless, widow and stranger?
 - Discuss what stands out to you in these passages
- What Old Testament example of redemption resonates with you the most? Why?
- As you consider your life over the past year, would you see yourself as outside or inside of Bet Av?

Play Video (20:30 - End)

Video Discussion: *Leader – This discussion will hopefully prompt the group to examine the state of the church and brainstorm how we can be the best version possible of a New Testament Bet Av.*

- What has been your experience as you have participated in the New Testament Bet Av (the church)?
- If we are honest with ourselves, we have all been influenced by, and adopted, to some degree, the concept of rugged individualism. How would we live life differently if we instead lived out the idea of a Bet Av?
- What are the important aspects of Bet Av to implement that would make it attractive and effective in bringing the Kingdom of Heaven?

Leader – Wrap up these five lessons by having people share one thing that will affect them going forward as far as their identity and/or what God is calling them to. Spend some time praying for each other - that God would allow our true identity to take root and that we would have the courage to partner with him!