



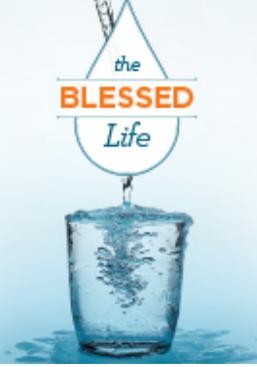
Group Leader Guide Instructions

DISCIPLESHIP IN ACTION

Belonging happens when people are growing in relationship with others **as each person contributes** to fulfilling God's vision for Gateway Church and celebrates the privileges of being a part of His blessed family.

Have you, as the leader, empowered people to **contribute** their gifts and talents to your group?

As a leader, you must first get to know the person's heart. Then, ask the Holy Spirit how you can empower that person in agreement with God's plan.



Dream Givers Jimmy Evans

OVERVIEW

We all have dreams, but it is important to know that God has a dream too. God is self-sufficient and doesn't need anything outside of Himself to exist; however, He does want a family. God sees us beyond our issues and as the family He desires.

CONNECTION

Share about a childhood dream that you had. It could be something outlandish, funny, or even something that you ended up doing.

QUICK RECAP

Key Scriptures: Revelation 21:1–11; Mark 14:3–11; Mark 8:34–38

- **God's dream**

In Mark 14, Jesus visits the home of Simon the leper. Leprosy was a horrible, incurable disease, and no one wanted to be around lepers, but that didn't stop Jesus. Simon was a part of God's dream. God values every single person. He doesn't see us in our sin, sickness, or failure. He sees us beyond our issues. God loves people and sees them through the eyes of a loving Father.

- **Our dreams**

Mary had a dream. Her dream was to get married and have a family. That is why she planned and saved the perfume; it was her dowry. So when she poured the perfume over Jesus's feet, she was pouring out her dream on Jesus. Mary gave up her dream so that God could have His dream, and that is the spirit of the gospel. The gospel can only be successfully promoted by believers who value God's dream over their own and who are willing to sacrifice their dream for His.

- **Laying down our dreams**

We must surrender our personal dreams to God. Greed and selfishness blind us to the gospel and the importance of God's dream. The greatest threat to God's dream of building a family through the preaching of the gospel is our unsundered dream. Selfishness causes us to pursue

Tip Of The Week

Facilitating Small Groups

Be comfortable with silence.

- Wait 4–5 seconds after asking a question.
- Make eye contact with various people.
- Rephrase (do not change) the question, and wait again.

It takes 5–8 seconds for people to hear a question, comprehend the meaning, and formulate a response. Give it time. If no one answers after the second time around, your question is unclear, too complicated, or irrelevant to your group. Move on to a new question.

Bless A Life

Share Stories

Each week, continue to have people share their stories of how generosity or giving has impacted them.

To share your group pictures with us, email groups@gatewaypeople.com.

To share stories about tithing, email stories@gatewaypeople.com.

what we want without caring how it affects God or others. Jesus said we can't follow Him unless we first deny ourselves.

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What stood out to you the most during this week's message from Pastor Jimmy Evans? Was there anything new that you learned regarding the story of Mary and Judas? Share.
2. Why do you think Jesus chose to have dinner at Simon the leper's house? What would that situation look like today?
3. Why do you think Mary's gift of perfume was so important that Jesus commanded she be memorialized wherever the gospel was preached?
4. What are some of examples of selfish dreams we may have that might stand in the way of God's dream?
5. Pastor Jimmy compared our dreams to something that needed to be laid down for the sake of the gospel. Do you agree or disagree, and why? What would this look like in our own lives?
6. Do you have an unsundered dream that is keeping you from serving the Lord or your family or from giving obediently? If you are comfortable, share.
7. **Stop:** Take time to pray for one another either as a group or in smaller groups. Minister to the needs present.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

How do you think your own talents fit into God's dream of having a family? What are some practical ways you could spend your time and use your talents to further God's dream of having a family? How could you use your time and your talents to help someone else reach a dream they have?

CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You that You desire to have us in Your family. What an honor it is to be part of Your dream. Help us lay down our dreams at the feet of Jesus and show us if there are any unsundered dreams in our lives. Help us to serve others and give for the sake of Your dream and kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.