

I KNOW A GUY

I KNOW A GUY FIELD GUIDE

This field guide exists because discipleship is formed through practice, not inspiration alone. In I Know a Guy, we are shaping people who live with intentional faith in everyday life. This guide is designed to help you slow down, engage Scripture, and take real steps toward the people God has already placed around you.

Everything here centers on three simple practices. Names matter. We pray for people by name to know Jesus. Hope has words. We speak honestly about what Jesus has done in our lives. One step forward. We take one faithful step toward someone. These are not programs. They are practices, and we celebrate faithfulness, not results.

Because discipleship is meant to be lived together, you will see a Field Guide QR code throughout this guide. It is a way for us to pray specifically as a church, share stories of what God is doing, and encourage one another as we take steps of obedience.

You do not need to do this perfectly. You simply need to show up honestly and take the next faithful step. We will trust God with the results.

Week One

This first week is about learning to see again. Before we ever speak, invite, or share our story, Jesus reshapes how we look at people. Evangelism does not begin with words. It begins with vision. This week is not about doing something impressive. It is about slowing down enough to notice the people God has already placed in your life and praying for them by name to know Jesus.

You are not being asked to pray for everyone. You are being asked to pray intentionally for someone. Names matter because people matter.

As you move through this week, return often to this simple prayer. Jesus, help me see.

Monday: Jesus Sees the Lost

Today's Reading: Luke 19:1-10

Today's Thought: Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. That detail matters. Jericho was not the destination. Zacchaeus was not on the schedule. But when Jesus passes through, he notices someone everyone else has already written off.

Zacchaeus is not just unpopular. He is despised. He is wealthy from corruption, isolated by his choices, and unable to see over the crowd. He climbs a tree just to catch a glimpse of Jesus as he goes by.

Then something unexpected happens. Jesus stops. He looks up. He calls Zacchaeus by name. Before Zacchaeus speaks. Before he apologizes. Before he repents. Before he changes anything.

Jesus sees him.

This is the order that matters. Seeing comes first. Relationships follow.

Jesus does not wait for Zacchaeus to clean up his life or prove sincerity. He moves toward him and invites himself into Zacchaeus' life. And that invitation is what leads to transformation. Zacchaeus does not change to be seen. He changes because he has been seen.

Sit with that for a moment. Think about who you tend to rush past or overlook. Often the people Jesus is most eager to see are the ones we have learned not to notice.

Jesus ends the story by naming his mission. The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. That is not a slogan. It is a posture.

This is where evangelism begins. Not with arguments. Not with answers. With seeing.

Field Practice

Write down at least one name today. This is someone you are praying for by name to know Jesus. Not to fix their life. Not to manage an outcome. Simply to know Jesus. Say their name out loud before God and pray this simple prayer. Jesus, help me see them the way you see them.

Name _____

Take your time. This is not busy work. It is the first step of faithfulness.

Tuesday: Compassion Begins with Seeing

Today's Reading: Mark 6:30-34

Today's Thought: This passage matters because it shows what Jesus was trying to do. He was not headed toward ministry. He was headed toward rest. The disciples were tired, depleted, and so busy they had not even eaten. Jesus names that reality and invites them away. Quiet. Solitude. Recovery.

Rest is not an afterthought here. It is Jesus' idea. And then the crowd shows up anyway.

This is where the tension lives. Not a problem to solve, but a tension to navigate. Jesus does not abandon rest as a value, but in this moment, he adjusts his response. He steps off the boat and sees the crowd. The text does not say he was annoyed or resentful. It says he had compassion.

That compassion is costly. Jesus chooses presence when rest would have been understandable. He sees people who are lost and vulnerable. Sheep without a shepherd. Not interruptions. People in need of care.

This matters because compassion and exhaustion often pull on us at the same time. When we are worn down, it becomes easier to stop seeing people clearly. We rush past others not because we are uncaring, but because we are tired.

Jesus shows us a different way. He honors rest and remains attentive. He discerns the moment. He sees. And because he sees, he stays.

This passage is not telling us to ignore our limits. It is teaching us to live aware. Sometimes obedience means guarding

rest. Sometimes it means adjusting our plans because love is needed in front of us.

Compassion does not begin with energy. It begins with vision.

Ask yourself today where tiredness has dulled your awareness. Jesus does not ask you to carry everyone. He asks you to see someone.

Field Practice

Ask God today to help you see people the way Jesus sees them. Look again at the names you are praying for. If another name comes to mind, add it. Pray for each person by name to know Jesus. Thank God that he is already at work in their life, even if you cannot see the fruit yet.

End your prayer with this simple request. Jesus, slow me down enough to see.

Wednesday: You Are Already Sent

Today's Reading: Romans 10:13-15.

Today's Thought: Paul is not writing poetry here. He is tracing reality. People are saved when they call on Jesus. But calling requires believing. Believing requires hearing. And hearing requires someone to speak and be sent.

This is not about professionals. Paul is not talking about pastors or people with microphones. He is talking about ordinary followers of Jesus who understand that God chooses to work through people.

Being sent does not mean standing on a stage. It means showing up with awareness. Your life places you in rooms and relationships where the gospel would never go otherwise. Your workplace. Your neighborhood. Your family. Those are not accidents. They are assignments.

Paul says their feet are beautiful, not because they are impressive, but because they move. They move toward people instead of past them. They carry good news into ordinary places.

Preach here does not mean sermon. It means proclaim. To make something known when the moment calls for it. Faithfully. Naturally.

This passage does not ask you to save anyone. Only Jesus saves. But God has chosen to involve his people in how others hear. That is not pressure. It is responsibility.

Ask yourself where God has already sent you. Where people know your name and trust your presence. Those are the places your feet are meant to be beautiful.

This is why seeing comes before speaking. If you do not see people, you will never move toward them. And if you never move toward them, they will never hear.

Field Practice

Look again at the names you are praying for. Ask God to help you see where he has already placed you in their life. Pray for awareness, not courage yet. Pray for eyes that notice moments where presence matters. Thank God that he does not send you alone, but goes with you.

End your prayer with this simple confession. Jesus, I am available.

Thursday: Live in a Way That Prepares the Way

Today's Reading: Colossians 4:5–6

Today's Thought: Paul starts with how you live before he ever talks about what you say. That order matters. People are watching long before they are listening. Outsiders are forming opinions about Jesus based on how his followers act in everyday moments. Your life is already speaking.

Wisdom here is not about having answers. It is about living thoughtfully. It is how you treat people when you are stressed. How you respond when things do not go your way. How you speak about people who are not like you. Wisdom builds trust, and trust creates opportunity.

When Paul says make the most of every opportunity, he is not talking about forcing conversations. Opportunities are not created, they are recognized. They usually come after presence, consistency, and care. Many moments are missed not because we are afraid, but because we are distracted or rushed.

Then Paul talks about conversation. Full of grace. Seasoned with salt. Grace means your words sound like Jesus. Kind. Patient. Humble. Salt means your words still carry truth and substance. Grace without salt becomes empty encouragement. Salt without grace becomes harsh and unhelpful. Together, they make words worth hearing.

Paul's point is simple. Credibility comes before conversation. Character creates curiosity. When the time comes to speak, your words carry weight because your life has prepared the way.

Field Practice:

Today, practice awareness with your pace. Notice where you rush and who you rush past. Choose one moment to slow down and be fully present. Practice grace in how you listen and respond. If a moment opens, offer a simple sentence of hope, not a speech.

Pray for the people on your list and ask God to shape your life so that when you speak, your words land with grace and truth.

End with this prayer. Lord, make my life wise and my words gracious.

Friday: Faithfulness Comes Before Fruit

Today's reading: Psalm 126:5-6

Today's Thought: This is one of the most honest promises in Scripture because it does not pretend the work is easy. It says sowing can be done with tears. That means obedience is sometimes painful. Sometimes it is slow. Sometimes you pray and you do not see change. Sometimes you love people, and you feel ignored. Sometimes you show up and nothing seems to happen. The Bible does not call that failure. It calls it sowing.

Seed is small. It looks insignificant in your hand. It disappears when you put it in the ground. And for a while, it looks like nothing is happening. But seed work is not wasted work. It is hidden work. God does some of his best work underground.

This is why this passage belongs at the end of the week. If we are not careful, names matter can turn into pressure. We start thinking the goal is quick results. We start counting outcomes and feeling discouraged when we cannot see progress. Psalm 126 resets us. It reminds us that faithfulness is the win before fruit ever shows up.

The psalm also reminds us that the emotion does not disqualify the obedience. You can sow while you are tired. You can sow while you are disappointed. You can sow while you are burdened. The tears do not cancel the calling. They often prove you care.

And then comes the hope. Those who sow will reap. Not because they are powerful, but because God is faithful. You are not responsible for the harvest. You are responsible for the seed. God handles what you cannot control.

This is where we hold the tension with peace. We pray for people by name to know Jesus, and we trust God with timing. We take one step, and we trust God with outcomes. We stay faithful, and we believe joy will come.

Field Practice

Look back over the week. How many people did you pray for by name to know Jesus? Did you notice anyone you normally overlook?

This week has been about praying for people by name, because people matter to God. We want to be a church that does not pray generally, but specifically. If you are praying for one person or many, you can scan the Field Guide QR code and simply let us know how many people you are carrying in prayer. You are not sharing names publicly, but you are helping us pray intentionally as a church for real people and real stories. When we pray specifically, we learn to trust God together with what we cannot control.



Weekly Field Debrief

Where did you see people differently this week?

Where did you feel resistance?

Where did you sense God nudging you?

What is one thing you want to carry forward into next week?

This week was not about results. It was about seeing.

Names matter because people matter. And God is already at work.

Week One Small Group Guide: I Know a Guy and Names Matter

Leader note

This week is about vision, not vocabulary. Do not rush toward application. Let people sit with the idea of seeing before asking them to do anything. The goal is awareness, not activity. Celebrate honesty and small steps.

Relational warm up

Share a time when someone truly noticed you or took time to see you. What made that moment meaningful.

Scripture reading

Have someone read Luke 19:1-10

Encourage the group to listen for what Jesus does before Zacchaeus ever speaks or changes.

Discussion

What stands out to you about how Jesus treats Zacchaeus in this story?

Why do you think Jesus stops and calls Zacchaeus by name when no one else does?

How does this story challenge the way we normally think about evangelism?

Vision connection

In the sermon, we talked about evangelism beginning with seeing, not speaking. Why do you think seeing people is often harder than talking about faith?

What tends to distract us or cause us to rush past people in everyday life?

Scripture connection

Read Romans 10:13-15

How does this passage connect responsibility without creating pressure?

What does it mean that God chooses to work through ordinary people instead of experts?

Reflection

Who are the people you tend to overlook because of busyness, routine, or discomfort?

What would change if you believed God has already placed people in your life on purpose?

Field practice together

Take a quiet moment. Ask God to bring one name to mind of someone you are praying for by name to know Jesus. Do not share the names out loud unless someone chooses to. If comfortable, share only how many names you wrote down. This keeps the focus on faithfulness, not exposure.

Prayer

Pray together using this simple structure.

Thank God that he sees people we overlook

Ask Jesus to help the group see with his eyes this week

Commit the names written down to God without trying to control outcomes

Leader close

Remind the group that this week is not about results. It is about posture. Names matter because people matter. God is already at work. Our role is to notice and respond faithfully.

Week Two

This second week is about putting hope into words. Not perfect words. Not church words. Honest words. This week is not about winning arguments. It is about being a witness who can simply tell the truth about what you have seen and what you know.

If week one taught us to see people, week two helps us speak with clarity when God opens a door. Clarity beats complexity. You do not have to know everything. You just have to tell the truth about what Jesus has done.

As you move through this week, return often to this simple prayer. Jesus, give me simple words.

Monday: Tell What the Lord Has Done

Today's Reading: Mark 5:1-20

Today's Thought: Jesus takes a brand-new follower and gives him one assignment. Not a class. Not a program. Not a complicated script. Go home and tell them how much the Lord has done for you and how he has had mercy on you.

That is what a witness does. A lawyer tries to win a case. A witness tells the truth about what they have seen and what they know.

This man wants to leave. I get it. If you were him, you would want to get away from the place where everybody remembers the worst version of you. But Jesus sends him right back into the very relationships that carry his old story, because Jesus is going to turn that old story into a vehicle for good news.

Notice what Jesus does not say. He does not say, "Go explain theology." He does not say, "Go answer every question." He says, "Tell them what I did. Tell them I had mercy." Your story is not your sales pitch. It is your evidence.

Field Practice

Write your story in three simple movements. Keep it honest and keep it clear.

Before Jesus (Who were you before you met Jesus?)

Meeting Jesus (How did you meet Jesus?)

Life with Jesus now (How has your life changed since Jesus has been a part of it?)

Do not overthink it. Write it like you would tell it to someone over coffee.

Tuesday: One Thing I Do Know

Today's Reading: John 9:24-25

Today's Thought: This moment happens after a long, uncomfortable exchange. The man who was born blind has already been questioned, dismissed, and pressured by religious leaders who are far more concerned with protecting their system than listening to his story. They are not asking curious questions. They are trying to control the outcome. They want him to explain Jesus in a way that fits their conclusions.

The tension keeps rising. They push him to take sides. They press him to speak beyond what he knows. And in that moment, the man chooses clarity over complexity. He does not pretend. He does not argue. He does not try to win.

He simply says, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I do not know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see."

That is clarity under pressure.

This is the heart of this week. Most people freeze because they think sharing faith means explaining everything. But Jesus never asked you to be the expert. He asked you to be the witness.

Some stay quiet because their story feels too boring. Others because it feels too messy. Others because they do not know how to put it into words. But silence usually comes from fear, not humility.

So today we practice one sentence. One thing I do know. Not everything. Just one true thing you can say with confidence.

Field Practice

Write your “one thing I do know” sentence. Then say it out loud.

One thing I do know is _____

Ask God for one opportunity this week where that sentence could fit naturally.

Wednesday: Testimony Has Power

Today's Reading: Revelation 12:10-11

Today's Thought:

This passage pulls back the curtain and shows us that testimony is not just personal. It is spiritual. It tells us that victory does not come from confidence, cleverness, or perfect words. Victory comes from two things working together. The blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony.

The blood of the Lamb is what saves. That is Jesus' work, not yours. You cannot add to it, improve it, or replace it. But testimony is how that saving work gets spoken into the world. It is how truth pushes back against accusation. It is how hope interrupts shame.

The enemy accuses. He reminds people of who they used to be. He tells them they are too far gone, too broken, too inconsistent to be loved by God. Testimony answers that accusation, not with argument, but with truth. Jesus changed me. Jesus forgave me. Jesus is still at work in me.

Notice what this verse does not say. It does not say they triumphed by having all the answers. It does not say they triumphed by winning debates. It says they triumphed by telling the truth about what Jesus has done.

That means your story matters more than you think. Not because it is dramatic, but because it is honest. Not because it is complete, but because it is real. Your testimony does not replace the gospel. It carries it.

This is why silence is not neutral. When stories stay untold, accusation goes unchallenged. But when people speak honestly about what Jesus has done, light breaks through places shame has lived for too long.

Hope has words because truth needs a voice.

Field Practice

Take the sentence you practiced yesterday. One thing I do know. Write it again today. Then add one short line that points clearly to Jesus. Keep it simple. Keep it honest. Pray and thank God that he uses ordinary stories to do eternal work.

End your prayer with this sentence.
Jesus, use my story for your glory.

Thursday: Ready When Someone Asks

Today's Reading: 1 Peter 3:15

Today's Thought: Peter is not telling you to answer every question anyone could ever ask. He is telling you to be ready to explain your hope. That is what your story does. It explains mercy. It explains what Jesus has done.

And notice the posture. Gentleness and respect. Not panic. Not performance. Not pressure. If Christ is Lord in your heart, you do not have to scramble for control. You can be steady. You can be kind. You can be clear.

This is why we practice now. Not so you can force conversations. So, you can be ready when someone asks.

Field Practice

Write your “reason for hope” in one paragraph. Then practice saying it in under one minute. After you practice, pray this simple prayer. Jesus, make me ready and make me gentle.

Friday: Let the Redeemed Tell Their Story

Today's Reading: Psalm 107:2

Today's Thought:

This verse is short, but it is not passive. It does not say the redeemed should feel grateful. It says the redeemed should tell their story.

Redemption is meant to be spoken. What God does in you is not meant to stop with you. This is not about oversharing or performing your faith. It is about obedience. God redeems people, and redeemed people tell the truth about it.

Notice what the verse assumes. If you belong to Jesus, you already have a story. It may be dramatic, or it may be quiet. It may be still unfolding. But it is real. And it is worth telling.

This is why preparation matters. Stories are rarely shared well by accident. They are shared well because someone took time to reflect, to choose clarity over complexity, and to practice honesty before the moment arrived.

Friday is not about pressure to share. It is about readiness. God opens doors you cannot predict. He creates moments you cannot schedule. This week has been about making sure that when those moments come, you are not silent because you feel unprepared.

You are not responsible for outcomes. You are responsible for obedience. God handles the rest.

Field Practice

Pray over your story today before you share it with anyone. Ask God to use it to bring hope and to break shame. Then choose one person to practice with this week. Not a stranger. Someone safe. Someone who loves you.

Practice partner _____

End your prayer with this simple commitment.
Jesus, I am ready to tell what you have done.

This week you have been practicing how to tell the truth about what Jesus has done in your life. Stories matter because they remind us that God is still at work. If you are willing, you can scan the Field Guide QR code and write out your story. You can also let us know if you would be open to sharing it in the future. This is not about pressure or performance. It is about letting testimony encourage others and give God glory. When stories are shared, faith grows in ways arguments never could.



Weekly Field Debrief

Where did you feel fear about putting hope into words?
What part of your story felt easiest to say?
What part felt hardest to say?
Who is one person God might be preparing you to speak with?
What is one sentence you want to carry into next week?

This week was not about perfect words. It was about honest witness. Hope has words because Jesus is real.

Week Two Small Group Guide: I Know a Guy and Hope Has Words

Leader note

This week is about clarity, not performance. People will feel vulnerable here. Keep the tone safe and practical. Do not force anyone to share details they are not ready to share. Celebrate effort, not polish.

Relational warm up

What is one topic you feel confident talking about, and one topic you freeze up talking about, and why?

Scripture reading

Have someone read Mark 5:18-20

Then have someone read John 9:24-25

Discussion

What stands out to you about what Jesus asks the man to do in Mark 5?

Why do you think Jesus keeps it that simple?

In John 9, what do you notice about the man's confidence and humility?

How does "one thing I do know" take pressure off, but still keep faith bold?

Scripture connection

Read 1 Peter 3:15

What does it mean to give the reason for the hope you have?

What does gentleness and respect look like in real life conversations?

Practical tool

Share the simple framework together and explain it out loud as a group

Before Jesus

Meeting Jesus Life with Jesus now

Group practice moment

Give everyone three quiet minutes to write bullet points for each of the three parts.

Invite anyone who wants to share to practice out loud in under one minute.

If someone shares, the group responds with one sentence of encouragement, not critique.

Field practice together

As a group, pray for the names from week one again, and ask God for one natural opportunity this week to speak with clarity. Then have each person write one “one thing I do know” sentence.

Prayer

Thank Jesus for mercy you did not earn. Ask for courage that does not perform and words that stay simple. Ask for open doors and the right timing. Commit yourselves to being faithful witnesses, not perfect experts

Week Three

This third week is about relationship and courage. Week One was about seeing people the way Jesus sees them. Week Two was about putting hope into words. This week is about taking one step toward someone without turning them into a project.

Most of us do not freeze because we lack information. We freeze because we do not want to damage trust. We do not want to be weird. We do not want to hurt people we care about. But love that never moves and never speaks is not love. It is fear dressed up as caution.

This week, we are practicing a simple pathway that Jesus models over and over. Presence, curiosity, listening, naming hope, then one next step. Not a script. A posture.

As you move through this week, return often to this simple prayer. Jesus, help me take one step.

Monday: Jesus Walks with People Before He Teaches Them

Today's Reading: Luke 24:13-35

Today's Thought: Jesus does not start with a speech. He starts with presence. He comes near and walks with them while they are confused, disappointed, and carrying questions they do not know how to answer. He matches their pace.

Then Jesus does something that sounds simple, but it changes everything. He asks a question. He gives them space to talk. He listens long enough for the real sentence to come out. "We had hoped." That is where evangelism gets real. Not when people argue. When people admit what they are carrying.

Only after presence and questions and listening does Jesus begin to name hope. And even then, he does not force the moment. He lets relationship create invitation. They ask him to stay. One step. One invitation. One shared space. And suddenly their eyes are opened.

If you want to move toward someone with faith, start where Jesus starts. Show up. Ask one real question. Listen without trying to fix.

Field Practice

Choose one person you care about and take one simple presence step today. Send a text that is not an invite and not a sermon. Just presence.

Text: I have been thinking about you. How are you really doing

Then pray for the names you are already carrying. Ask Jesus for ears that listen, not words that rush.

Tuesday: Come and See Is a Real Step

Today's Reading: John 4:28-30

Today's Thought: This is one of the simplest invitations in Scripture, and it is one of the most powerful. She does not have a polished story. She does not have answers. She does not have training. She has an encounter with Jesus, and she takes one step toward her town with honest words.

Notice what she does and what she does not do. She does not argue. She does not pressure. She does not pretend she is certain about everything. She simply points. Come and see. That is relational evangelism. It is courage without aggression. It is faith without performance.

Also notice what she leaves behind. Her water jar. The thing she came for. That is what happens when Jesus becomes more than an addition. He becomes the center. When living water hits a person's life, old routines start to lose their grip.

Your one step this week might not be a full conversation. It might be an invitation. Come and see. Come sit with me. Come meet my friends. Come check it out.

Field Practice

Write one simple come and see invite that sounds like you. Not churchy. Not weird. Real.

Invite: _____

Now pray for one person on your list by name to know Jesus. Ask God for the right timing, not forced timing.

Wednesday: Testimony Opens Doors, Jesus Changes Hearts

Today's Reading: John 4:39-42

Today's Thought: This passage holds the balance we need. Your testimony matters, and your testimony is not the Savior. God uses her words to get people moving. Her story opens the door. Then Jesus does what only Jesus can do. He stays. He speaks. He changes hearts.

This is why relational evangelism is not pressure. You are not trying to produce belief. You are trying to open a door. Your role is not to control outcomes. Your role is faithful witness and faithful love.

There is also something freeing here. People do not need you to be perfect. They need you to be honest. They need you to point them toward Jesus in a way that feels real. And then they need space to hear Jesus for themselves.

So do not overthink your next step. One small story can move someone closer than a hundred perfect arguments.

Field Practice

Write one sentence from your story that could open a door. Keep it simple and true.

Sentence: _____

Pray: Jesus, use my words to open a door, and then do what only you can do.

Thursday: Love Earns Trust, Trust Makes Room for Hope

Today's Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8

Today's Thought: This is not marketing. This is ministry. Paul describes evangelism as sharing two things together. The gospel of God and our lives as well. That is what makes it relational. People can smell it when we only show up with an agenda. But when we share life, trust grows. And when trust grows, hope can land.

Some of you have people in your life who will not listen to a message, but they will listen to you. They trust you. They have watched you. They know you are not perfect, but they also know you are real. That matters.

This is why “one step forward” is not always a big spiritual conversation. Sometimes the step is showing up. Sometimes the step is another meal. Another check in. Another moment of listening. You are sharing your life. And God uses that shared life to create openings you cannot manufacture.

Field Practice

Choose one life sharing step today. A coffee invite. A meal. A walk. A simple hang.

Step: _____

Before you do it, pray for that person by name to know Jesus. Ask God to make your presence feel like care, not a project.

Friday: You Are an Ambassador, Not a Salesperson

Today's Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:14-20

Today's Thought: Paul gives you the why and the who. The why is love. "Christ's love compels us." Not guilt. Not ego. Not fear. Love. The who is ambassadors. An ambassador represents someone else with honor. You do not speak for yourself. You speak on behalf of the King.

That means you are not trying to win. You are trying to represent Jesus well. You are not trying to force reconciliation. You are carrying the message of reconciliation with a posture that matches it. God is not counting sins against people. He is offering mercy. So we speak like mercy is real.

Also notice the shift in how we see people. "We regard no one from a worldly point of view." That is week one showing up again. Seeing changes everything. When you see someone as a soul, not a problem, courage gets cleaner. Love gets stronger.

So end this week with a simple aim. Be available. Take one step. Represent Jesus with honor. Trust God with fruit.

Field Practice

Write the one step you will take this weekend. A question. A listen. A story sentence. An invitation.

One step: _____

Pray: Jesus, compel me with love and help me represent you well.

This week has been about taking one step toward someone with love and courage. That step might have been a prayer, a conversation, an invitation, or simply listening. If you took

a step, you can scan the Field Guide QR code and share what that looked like. These stories are not about results. They are about obedience. When we share steps of faith, we remind each other that God works through ordinary people who choose to move instead of staying silent.



Weekly Field Debrief

Where did you sense fear about taking a step toward someone?

Where did you choose presence instead of avoidance?

What question do you want to start asking more often?

Who is one person you want to take a step toward next week?

What is your next one step?

Week Three Small Group Guide: I Know a Guy and One Step Forward

Leader note

This week is about relational courage, not awkward pressure. Keep the tone safe. Do not let the group turn people into projects. We are practicing a posture. Presence, curiosity, listening, naming hope, and one next step. Celebrate effort, not outcomes.

Relational warm up

When you think about spiritual conversations, what feels hardest for you. Saying something. Timing. Fear of awkwardness. Fear of offense. Fear of ruining trust.

Scripture reading

Have someone read John 4:28-30

Have someone read Luke 24:13-17

Discussion

What do you notice about how the woman's invitation sounds? What makes it feel honest and relational?

Why do you think Jesus starts with walking and questions in Luke 24 instead of jumping straight to teaching?

Which part of the simple pathway is easiest for you? Presence. Curiosity. Listening. Naming hope or offering a next step?

Which part is hardest and why?

Practical tool

Practice the three questions from the sermon idea together but make them sound like real humans. Choose one version that sounds like you.

What has been the hardest part of life lately?

What do you usually do with that?

Would you be open to hearing what has helped me?

Group practice moment

Break into pairs and role play a two-minute moment. One person shares something hard. The other practices presence, one question, and listening. No fixing. Then switch.

Field practice together

Quiet moment. Have everyone write one name they are praying for by name to know Jesus. Then have everyone write one step they will take this week toward that person. Only share the step if you want to. No pressure.

Name _____
One step _____

Prayer

Thank Jesus that he walks with people before they understand. Ask for eyes to see, love that is patient, and courage that is wise. Pray for the names written down to know Jesus. Commit to faithfulness and trust God with fruit.

Leader close

Remind the group of the win. We are not counting outcomes. We are practicing obedience. One step forward.

Week Four

This final week is about invitation and responsibility. Not pressure driven invitation. Relational invitation. The kind that grows naturally when you trust what someone will experience on the other side of your yes.

By now, we have learned to see people, to put hope into words, and to take one step toward someone. Week Four asks a deeper question. Are we becoming the kind of church we are willing to invite people into.

Inviting someone is not just about courage. It is about trust. You are trusting that when they walk through the doors, they will encounter Jesus through his people. That is why this week is not about hype. It is about health. A healthy church becomes invitational without forcing it.

As you move through this week, return often to this simple prayer. Jesus, make us a church worth inviting into.

Monday: Outsiders Are Not an Interruption

Today's Reading: Colossians 4:5-6

Today's Thought: Paul assumes outsiders will be around. He does not frame them as a disruption to church life. He frames them as the reason for wisdom. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders. That means how we live together matters just as much as what we say.

People decide whether they feel safe long before they decide whether they agree. They watch how Christians talk to each other. How they handle disagreement. How they treat people who do not belong yet. How they respond when someone does not know the rules.

Paul connects wisdom with opportunity. Opportunities are not created by pressure. They are created by posture. When people experience grace before explanation, they lean in instead of pulling away.

This is why invitation is not just about the inviter. It is about the environment being invited into. A church that lives with grace and truth together becomes a place where hope feels believable.

Field Practice

Pray for the people on your list by name to know Jesus. Then ask yourself one honest question.

If I were walking into church for the first time, what would I hope to experience?

Write one word.

Word _____

Ask Jesus to shape that posture in you this week.

Tuesday: Health Comes Before Harvest

Today's Reading: Acts 2:42-47

Today's Thought: This picture of the early church is not flashy. It is faithful. Teaching. Fellowship. Meals. Prayer. Generosity. Presence. None of it is complicated. All of it is intentional.

Notice the order. Devotion comes before growth. Health comes before harvest. The people are formed together before the numbers grow around them. And as they live this way, the Lord adds to their number.

This matters because we often want fruit without formation. We want growth without depth. Acts 2 reminds us that God grows what is healthy. Not perfect. Healthy.

A healthy church is not one where everyone agrees. It is one where people belong before they believe, where generosity flows naturally, where prayer is practiced, and where people are known.

Invitation becomes easier when you trust the culture. When you know people will be seen, welcomed, and cared for, you do not hesitate to say come and see.

Field Practice

Ask God this question today.

Where are you inviting me to strengthen health rather than chase results?

Write one small action you can take this week that contributes to church health.

Action _____

Pray and offer it as an act of faithfulness.

Wednesday: Everyone Plays a Part

Today's Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Today's Thought:

Paul does not describe the church as a crowd. He describes it as a body. Every part matters. Every role counts. No one is unnecessary. No one is replaceable.

This reframes invitation completely. When someone walks into church, they are not entering a performance. They are entering a body. What they experience is shaped by how every part functions together.

Hospitality is not a team. It is a posture. Worship is not just music. It is participation. Community is not a program. It is people choosing to belong to one another.

You do not have to be everything. But you are responsible to be something. When each part plays its role with love, the body becomes a place of healing and belonging.

Field Practice

Thank God today for the part he has given you to play. Then ask him one question.

How can I serve the body this week with joy and intention?

Write one simple step.

Step _____

Commit it to God in prayer.

Thursday: Invitation Is an Act of Love

Today's Reading: Luke 14:15-23

Today's Thought:

Jesus tells a story about a banquet. The invitation goes out, but many decline. Not because the invitation was bad, but because other priorities felt more urgent.

So the host expands the invitation. He sends people out to the roads and the lanes. The goal is not exclusivity. The goal is fullness. The heart of the host is that the house would be full.

Invitation in the kingdom is never about pressure. It is about love. It is saying there is room for you. You matter enough to be invited. You are wanted.

This is why invitation works best when it is personal. Not mass produced. Not manipulative. Personal. Come with me. Sit with me. Experience this with me.

Field Practice

Think of one person you care about. Ask God if this is a week to invite them to take one step closer.

Not a demand. An invitation.

Write the invitation in your own words.

Invitation _____

Pray for courage and trust God with their response.

Friday: God Gives the Growth

Today's Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:5-9

Today's Thought:

Paul brings us back to the right ending. We plant. We water. God gives the growth. That truth protects us from pride and despair.

You are not responsible for outcomes. You are responsible for obedience. You are not asked to manufacture results. You are asked to be faithful with what you have been given.

This is how the series ends. Names matter. Hope has words. One step forward. And God handles what only God can do.

Faithfulness is never wasted. Every prayer. Every invitation. Every conversation. Every act of love matters more than you can see.

Field Practice

Look back over the entire series.

Who did you pray for by name?

Where did you put hope into words?

What step did you take?

Write a short prayer of trust. End it with these words.
Jesus, I trust you with the growth.

As this journey comes to a close, we want to continue practicing the rhythms we have learned. We want to be a church that prays for people by name, tells the truth about what Jesus has done, and takes faithful steps without trying to control outcomes. If you would like to share how God has been working through prayer, story, or steps taken, you can scan the Field Guide QR code. Your faithfulness helps shape

a culture where prayer is practiced, stories are celebrated, and obedience is normal.



Weekly Field Debrief

Where did invitation feel hardest this week?

Where did trust grow?

What step do you want to keep practicing after this series?

Who are you still praying for by name?

Week Four Small Group Guide: I Know a Guy and a place to gather

Leader note

This week is about trust and responsibility, not pressure. Many people hesitate to invite because they care deeply about the people in their lives. Honor that. Keep the tone relational and honest. Do not rush to application. Let the group reflect on whether they trust what someone would experience if they were invited. Celebrate faithfulness and awareness, not results.

Relational warm up

Think about the last time you were invited somewhere meaningful. What made that invitation feel safe or unsafe.

Scripture reading

Have someone read Acts 2:42-47

Have someone read Luke 14:15-23

Encourage the group to listen for what makes the environment healthy and invitational rather than focusing on outcomes or numbers.

Discussion

What stands out to you about how the early church lived together in Acts 2?

Why do you think health comes before harvest in God's design?

In Luke 14, why do you think people declined the invitation even though it was generous?

What makes invitation feel risky when it involves people we love?

Vision connection

In the sermon, we talked about becoming the kind of church worth inviting people into.

What experiences would help someone feel seen, safe, and welcomed here?

How does your personal posture shape someone's experience more than a program ever could?

Scripture connection

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

What does it mean that the church is a body and not a crowd?

How does knowing every part matters change how you view your role in invitation and hospitality?

Reflection

Where do you feel confident inviting someone and where do you hesitate?

What concerns come up when you think about inviting someone you care about deeply?

What would help you trust the environment more fully?

Field practice together

Take a quiet moment. Ask God to bring to mind one person you are praying for by name to know Jesus. Then ask one more question.

What is one small step I can take that reflects love and trust, not pressure?

Have each person write one step privately.

Invite anyone who wants to share only the step, not the name.

Affirm that obedience looks different for each person.

Name _____

One step _____

Prayer

Thank Jesus that he builds his church.

Ask God to shape MCC into a place of grace, truth, and welcome.

Pray for the names written down to know Jesus.

Commit yourselves to faithfulness and trust God with growth.

Leader close

Remind the group of the three wins one last time.

Names matter.

Hope has words.

One step forward.

This series was never about pressure. It was about practice.

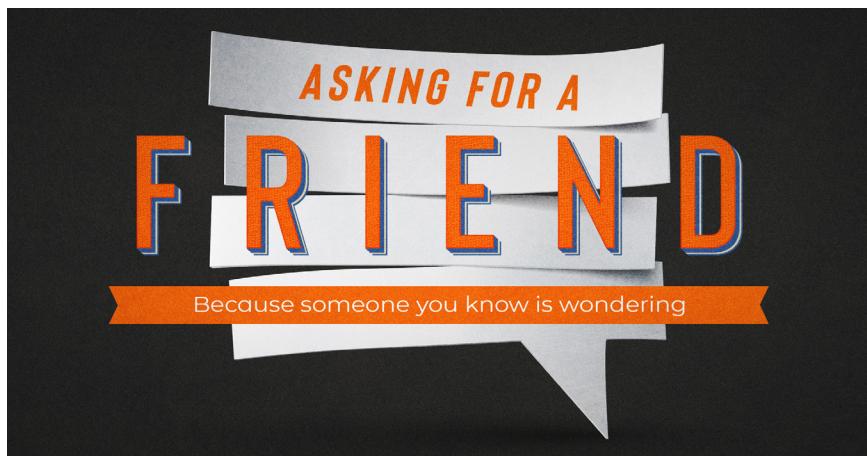
God is at work. Our role is to see, speak, step, and trust.

As we finish this devotional, it is worth noticing how God has been shaping us this year. We began by setting vision and asking who God is calling us to become. Then we leaned into Healthy for the Harvest, learning that faith touches every part of life as we focused on eating right, sleeping right, and exercising faithfully. From there, we learned to see people the way Jesus does, to tell our stories with honesty, and to invite others into what God is doing.

As our focus has become more people focused, we are creating space for honest conversations and real questions. That leads us into our next series, Asking for a Friend. Each week we will center on one question many people are already asking.

If God is good, why is there so much pain and injustice?
Is science against faith, or can they both be true?
How could a loving God send anyone to hell?
What happens when I die?
How do I get to Heaven?

We believe God is not afraid of our questions, and that Jesus still meets us in the middle of them with truth, love, and real hope.





M A R L B O R O
Christian Church