



Leader Guide – Weekly Gathering

Luke 6:1-11 • February 4, 2007 • by Kathy Watson and Steve Fawver

Opening (5 minutes)

Take time as leaders to welcome people and set a tone of joy and openness in community.

Check-in Time (15 minutes)

Have people get with a partner and take 3 minutes to each to tell about the past week.

Centering Worship (10 minutes)

Read Colossians 3:15-17 and leave a moment of silence.

Now take a few moments of silence to pray for each other. Have the group pray in silence for the person on their right.

Read Colossians 3:15-17 one more time.

Sharing (15 minutes)

Questions you might use during this time:

- Where have you experienced God this week?
- What stood out to you as you used the exercises this week?
- What exercise or section of Scripture caught your attention and why?
- Ask group members to look back over their journals and share some things that catch their attention.
- Ask group members to look back at the last worship gathering on Sunday. Where did they experience God?
- How did you notice (sense, feel, think, learn) this week as we gathered for worship?
- How did God show up in your life this week?
- How have you been intentional in creating space to listen to Christ this week?
- How have you noticed Christ calling you to "live out love" this week?

Group Listening Practice (40 minutes)

Supplies needed: Bible with Isaiah 1:10-19 ready to read. Art supplies (paper, pens, crayons, colored pencils, clay, etc.)

Hand out a piece of paper and have people write out a response to the following questions:

- What things do you do to be a "good Christian?"
- What things do you refrain from to be a "good Christian?"

Have people share some of the things they wrote down. As a group, brainstorm a list of things we associate with being a "good Christian."

Read Isaiah 1:10-15 out loud a couple of times. Make sure people know this is addressed to the people of Israel.

• How do you think people would have responded who heard this? Share your thoughts together as a group.

Have people take another piece of paper and some art supplies (colored pencils, pens, crayons, etc.)

Now read Isaiah 1:16-17 out loud a couple of times. Encourage people to simply write, draw, sketch during 8-10 minutes of silence. Ask: "What do you sense God is saying to you? What do you sense God is saying to us as a group or a body at NFC? Take a few minutes to draw, write, or sketch what comes to the surface. Remember this is not about creating some masterpiece, but about praying and listening. What seems to be the heart of the matter for God in this section of Scripture?"

Give people some time to share about this experience:

- What did you notice as you listened to this Scripture and prayed in this way?
- What did you sense God saying to you?
- What was it like to pray in this way?
- Do you feel God calling you toward something?

To close, have people be silent and listen as you read Isaiah 1:18-19 as a blessing over them. Leave a short space and then read it one more time.

Thank God for this time of prayer and sharing together.

Closing (5 minutes)

Remind people of the *Listening Life* worship gathering on Sunday, February 11, from 6:00 to 7:30 in Barclay A.