

## **Home Group Huddle Session 1 Notes**

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### **Leader/Follower**

Jesus didn't call the best leaders he could find. Jesus called the best followers he could find, and most often these were the least and the little.

Show me anywhere in the Bible that says the ultimate goal of human existence is to be a leader. It's not there. Instead, everything rises or falls on Jesus the Christ. It's not about greater intimacy and contact with a leader. It's about greater intimacy and contact with Christ. It's about a heart that beats in sync with the heart of God.

The first question in a followership culture is this: Is it different among us? Jesus points to the surrounding culture and its way of leading. The surrounding culture dominates and in many cases oppresses those under it. In fact, it celebrates that domination, that hierarchy, and esteems the rights and privileges that come from being on top. Jesus calls us instead to follow the model of the house servant and the bond slave, to give up our rights and privileges in order to serve the interest of another.

The church belongs to Jesus, and you must always remember that every member of the body, regardless of their maturity, is part of Jesus' Bride. Therefore, when you engage with another believer you are serving another man's wife. If you're in a leadership role or unusually gifted, you have to be especially vigilant. You must not compete for the affections of the Bride. Your job is simply to direct her to Jesus.

### **Transformation**

The gospel was never meant to be a technical analysis of theological information that gives people a lot of explanations but no real experience of the thing being explained. Got always intended the gospel to be communicated by people who have been transformed by the message and now live that message out.

This living presence is why Christianity always involves more than a decent morality, a compassionate code of conduct, a collection of creeds, or a set of cultic rituals. To be a Christian is to literally share in the resurrection life of Jesus. Those who are living in Christ are implanted with his Spirit and are to impart that Spirit in the world.

The world is not provoked by the gospel when they see Christians captured by the same dreams that capture everyone else.

The enemy is not nearly as threatened by religious activity as we imagined. He does not mind if you engage in activity and even acquire information as long as you do not become a living demonstration of the Word of God.

## **The Church**

First followers are not content providers so much as contact providers. For Christianity, the contact is the content.

Check out the extensive lists of church officers and activities in the New Testament. There is no mention of priests. In fact, there are but two forms of priesthood in the New Testament—the priesthood of Christ and the priesthood of all believers.

A Spirit-filled church is a praying church. It is a church with big Upper Rooms where followers pray without ceasing, attentive to the movements of the Spirit. It is not a church filled with program and agenda rooms but an Upper Room church in touch with both its roots and its wings.

Jesus is not returning for a church satisfied with her success in this age. He is returning for a church dissatisfied with his absence, a church filled with longing for Jesus to receive the final reward of his suffering.

God chooses and sends messengers with unusual anointing when a crisis is looming. Noah was sent before the flood. Moses was sent before the exodus. The biblical prophets were sent to Israel for decades before calamity came. If God raised up Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Jeremiah to prepare Israel for Babylon's invasion, will he not raise up messengers to prepare Israel in the nations before the most difficult crisis in history?

Events are coming that are far beyond what any of us can imagine. No other time in history is comparable to what will come before the Lord's return. Let that sink in. Are we discipling people with this in mind? Or is our church merely an extension of our social life and part of a lifestyle that is largely consumed with other things?

God wants to stir our emotions for the return of his son, because he is going to produce a church that is no longer contented with the absence of the Bridegroom.