



## Week Two

*For a reminder on how to best use this Discussion Guide, see the bottom of this document.*

### **Opening Prayers**

God, thank you for giving us this space to talk through our individual faith journey. We want to hear from you; help us to become aware of your presence, voice, and leadership in our life. Amen.

### **Let's jump into today's discussion by revisiting our theme verse for this series: Isaiah 43:19 (NIV)**

The Bible teaches us that God is constantly leading us towards a "next". He meets us where we are and he looks to move us towards the next thing. This is what this series, "Next", is all about.

- What are some fun and exciting things you are looking forward to in the next few months? For examples, are there any movies, vacations, new restaurants, holidays, upcoming activities, etc. you are looking forward to?

### **Read Deuteronomy 11:2 (Good News)**

Looking for God's presence and hand in our past often helps us see our faith journeys from a more expansive position or perspective. Leaning into God's perspective of our story empowers us to enlarge our capacity to trust God now and to live with larger faith moving forward. Owning our whole story honestly with God — the good, bad, hurt, joy, and grace — equips us to see that Jesus will be present with us through whatever happens next.

- Tell us about a time you saw God's hand in your life after a given situation, season, or event.

### **Read Luke 5:4 (NIV)**

God is always inviting us into something new. This verse, and the larger story it's found in, illustrates some key ways Jesus leads us.

#### **1. By responding to God's invitation.**

- Tell us about a time you said "yes" to an opportunity and everything changed.
- None of us get things right all the time. Tell us about a time you said "no" to something but you later wish you had said "yes" too.

#### **2. By pushing out deeper.** Saying 'yes' to God is not always easy or painless. In fact, the Bible tell us that being people who move to what is 'next' will mean we are people who allow ourselves to be

*(Content continued on the next page.)*

stretched outside our comfort zone. Bob Goff likes to call this “standing at the edge of yikes”. We are all invited to greater places of surrender and faith.

- What choices are on your plate now that will have ripple effects on your future?
  - Tell us about a time you took a step even though you felt fear.
- 3. By embracing uncertainty.** Being people who say ‘yes’ means putting our trust in God — this isn’t about putting our trust in getting the outcome we want. It’s about trusting that God has something for us in our ‘yes’; it’s about trusting that God’s presence will be with us on the journey, he will be enough, and he will do something good.
- When you are in uncertain times, is your natural narrative full of fear and anxiety or excitement and joyful anticipation?
  - Have you ever experienced God’s presence in an uncertain time? Tell us about that.

### **Read John 17:18 (Message)**

- Living on mission with Jesus and for Jesus, starts with us connecting with God. How are you doing at connecting with God?
- Are there any dreams or idea you have about good things God is inviting you into?

### **Closing Prayer**

God, we trust that you are looking to do something good in us and with our life. Help us to say ‘yes’ to you and what you have for us. Amen.

-----

### **How To Use this Discussion Guide**

The guide is meant to serve you and your group as you intentionally create space to grow in friendship and faith. Use the guide as a tool to help your unique group connect in friendship and help your grow your faith.

With that in mind, consider reviewing the guide before your group to see if some content or question might resonate more or less with your group. Don’t feel pressure to read all the content or to hit all the questions. The guide is not meant to be something you power through for the sake of completing. Pick the content from the guide you feel will help foster friendship and faith for your specific group.

Spend some time praying about your group, preparing your heart, and asking God for wisdom and guidance regarding your specific group.