

A person wearing a white robe is shown from the chest down, with their right hand held open and palm up. The background is a soft, warm, golden light, creating a serene and inviting atmosphere. The text is overlaid on the image.

# COME<sup>to</sup> JESUS

Sharing the Gospel with  
Conviction & Compassion

DISCUSSION GUIDE



college park church

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## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

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Anyone who has ever turned to Jesus in faith has responded to His personal invitation to, “Come, follow me.” In this summer series, we’ll see how Jesus interacts with, loves, and invites the lost—in all their various personalities, situations, struggles, hopes, and fears—to “Come to Jesus,” in the Gospels. The answer isn’t in a new way of living, cleaning up, shaping up, getting it together, praying a prayer, changing religions, or any other misconception about what it means to follow Christ. The answer is simply Jesus.

Jesus alone is the Way, the Truth, and the Life and *no one* comes to the Father except through Him (John 14:6). Believers are changed from one degree of glory to another by beholding the glory of the Lord (2 Cor. 3:16). As we pray for our neighbors and loved ones to join the family of God through faith in Jesus Christ, we want them to encounter Jesus through the gospel message. And, as we seek to be conformed into the image of Christ personally, we do so by encountering Jesus through that same gospel.

This guide is set up differently than other Study Guides College Park has produced. Our Summer 2017 focus is on *evangelism* and we want to incorporate this theme and its applications into Small Groups and discipleship groups as much as possible.

We’ve divided each week into three sections:

1. **DISCUSSION** This section includes questions that focus both on *understanding* of the text and *application* of the text.
2. **TESTIMONY** This section is designed to help members of your Small Group learn *how to share their testimony* in an evangelistic conversation. Here are a few guidelines as you think about sharing your story:
  - Make the gospel clear. Be sure to explain the gospel through your story.
  - Describe how the gospel has impacted your life.
  - Keep it brief—2-3 minutes. Think about what details should be prioritized and what details don’t need to be shared.<sup>1</sup>
3. **PRAYER** Thinking about and praying for non-Christians as a Small Group is a great way to stay focused on evangelism. Praying for **opportunities to share the gospel** with non-believers in the lives of your Small Group members is important. We’d love for each member of your Small Group or discipleship group to choose an unbeliever in their life to commit to praying for over the course of the summer.

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<sup>1</sup> Small Group leaders will likely want to schedule testimony sharing in advance of the Small Group meeting so that group members can prepare when it’s their turn to share.

We believe that Jesus is the all-satisfying treasure to those who find their life in Him, and this summer we are praying for 5,000 opportunities to share the gospel at our North Indy and Castleton campuses and 1,000 opportunities at our Fishers campus. These are opportunities for people to hear about the treasure and come to Jesus.

There are great opportunities for evangelism at each campus listed in Appendix 2. Encourage your Small Groups to engage in evangelism and outreach together and use all the gifts in the group to help people hear the gospel and put their faith in Christ.

**DISCUSSION**

1. What does Jesus mean when He says, “You must be born again”? Why do people need to be born again to see the Kingdom of God?
2. According to this passage, what are the effects of believing in Jesus? What are the effects of not believing in Jesus?
3. According to this passage, how do people react to Jesus’ coming into the world? Why do people react in this way?
4. Nicodemus is a Jewish teacher who is seeking the kingdom of God. How do we discern whether a non-Christian is seeking after God? What characteristics should we look for?
5. While we frequently think of John 3:16 in our evangelism, Jesus describes both God’s love (vs. 16–17) as well as God’s judgment of sin (vs. 18–21). How would you faithfully share about God’s love as well as His justice in your evangelism?
6. What promises or truths from John 3:1–21 can you use this week to live faithfully as a Christian?

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**DISCUSSION**

1. How is Jesus' heart towards the lost seen in this passage?
2. Why was it important that Jesus invited Himself to Zaccheus's house?
3. What does the text indicate might be true about Zaccheus? What kind of people in our current society today, or in your own life, would be considered a "Zaccheus?"
4. Jesus had relationships with all kinds of sinners and often ate a meal together with them in a home. How can you better use your home—house, apartment, condo—to be hospitable to those longing to be known by others?
5. How does Jesus' statement that He came to seek and to save the lost relate to you as a Christian? Why do you need to remember this?

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**DISCUSSION**

1. What questions does the woman ask and how does Jesus answer them? Why is might this pattern be important for us to understand?
2. What does it mean that true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth (vs. 23)? How should this affect the way that we engage in evangelism?
3. Who in our modern culture would be like the Samaritan woman? How does the gospel uniquely apply to these people?
4. What sinful barriers keep you from sharing Christ with someone like this woman? How can you conquer these barriers by the power of the Holy Spirit?
5. When we share the gospel, we need to be honest about both the beauty of Christ and the hideousness of sin, while still being winsome in speech. How can you be both honest and winsome?

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**DISCUSSION**

1. In verse 21, do you think Jesus was exposing the young man's idols, or offering him a way to be saved? Why?
2. Why do you think the rich young ruler became sad (v. 22)?
3. What are the strongest idols that keep people from following Jesus? Why are possessions, wealth, money, and treasures such powerful idols that keeps people from fully surrendering to Jesus?
4. Many times, we can have gospel conversations that center around convincing someone of Christianity's truthfulness. Why is it essential to identify the idols of the heart that people have as we point them to Christ?
5. What are some of your own idols that keep you from fully following Jesus? What do you trust in, think about, look to, and put your hope in more than Christ?

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**DISCUSSION**

1. Looking at all of John 6, how would you describe the people's response to the feeding of the 5,000? Positive or negative? Why?
2. How does Jesus respond to the large crowd of followers throughout the chapter?
3. In our society, credibility is often based on how large of a following they have. How should Christians view preachers and teachers who have a large following or church? How should Christians view preachers and teachers who have a small following or church?
4. The vast majority of Jesus' "followers" simply wanted their temporary needs met. How have you treasured Jesus' gifts more than Jesus Himself? How can you fight to follow Jesus for His glory rather than for His gifts?
5. How does Jesus talk about the gospel to the crowd? How does His example apply to us?

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**DISCUSSION**

1. What does this text tell us about who is invited into God's kingdom?
2. Why do you think Jesus uses this banquet to highlight God's heart and the gospel invitation to the outcasts, poor, disabled, and those far from God?
3. Today, who might fit Jesus' descriptions in verses 13 and 23? Why does Jesus think they will be more likely to respond to the invitation in this parable?
4. Where does friendship, love, and ministry to the social outcasts—those who are not as wealthy, successful, socially appropriate, righteous, or educated as you—fit into your life? Is this something you think about and prioritize? Why or why not?
5. How can you cultivate a heart that is less concerned about being embarrassed by being seen with sinners and outcasts and more concerned with taking Jesus' love and light to them? How can we as a group better serve and love all people in our community and not just those who look and think like us?

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**DISCUSSION**

1. What's different about the request of the criminal in verse 39 than that of the criminal in 40-41?
2. What about the second criminal's words express genuine faith in his dying moment?
3. What does this passage tell us about God's ability to save people in any circumstance, including their dying moments?
4. If you interact with people who know they will die soon, or are headed into a major surgery or event that scares them, what gospel truths can you share with them?
5. This passage demonstrates the grace of God that reaches to the most unlikely and least deserving. How does this truth produce gratitude for God's grace to you?

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## APPENDIX 1: EVANGELISM RESOURCES

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### RECOMMENDED BOOKS

- *Gospel Fluency* by Jeff Vanderstelt
- *Everyday Church* by Tim Chester & Steve Timmis
- *Learning Evangelism from Jesus* by Jerram Barrs
- *The Gospel* by Ray Ortlund
- *Bringing the Gospel Home* by Randy Newman
- *The Gospel Primer* by Milton Vincent
- *The Gospel and Personal Evangelism* by Mark Dever
- *The Reason for God* by Tim Keller
- *Unbelievable Evangelism* by Jonathan Dodson
- *The Art of Neighboring* by Jay Pathak & Dave Runyon

### COLLEGE PARK SERMON SERIES

- The Resurrected Gospel [yourchurch.com/resurrectedgospel](http://yourchurch.com/resurrectedgospel)
- Life on Mission: Go and Multiply [yourchurch.com/goandmultiply](http://yourchurch.com/goandmultiply)

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## APPENDIX 2: SUMMER OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

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### **NORTH INDY & CASTLETON CAMPUSES**

- Neighborhood Cookouts (all summer)
- Backyard Bible Clubs (June 5- August 5)
- Spring Hill Day Camp (July 24–28)
- Extreme Teens (July 24–28)
- Summer Fest (July 28)
- Women’s Summer Gathering (August 29)

### **FISHERS CAMPUS**

- Backyard Bible Clubs (all summer)
- Summer Cookout (July 22)
- Mom’s Meet-ups (3rd Friday of each month)

VISIT  
**YOURCHURCH.COM/SUMMER2017**  
FOR MORE DETAILS

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## APPENDIX 3: FISHERS CAMPUS: WAYS TO ENGAGE YOUR CITY THIS SUMMER

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### FISHERS & NOBLESVILLE

- Fishers events: <http://bit.ly/2pA5S4L>
- Noblesville events: <http://bit.ly/2q6mRfP>
- Farmer's Markets on Saturday mornings at Nickel Plate Ampitheater and Saxony (Fishers), and Federal Hill Commons/Downtown (Noblesville)
- Saxony (Fishers) Movies in the park (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday; June 17 *Sing*): <http://bit.ly/2q3Qf8e>
- Noblesville Movies in the Park (June & July, Fridays at 9 p.m.; Aug.-Sept., Saturday at 8:30 p.m.; family movies on Saturday): <http://bit.ly/2r2EkWI>
- Saxony Summer Concert Series (Witten Park, 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month June-Aug.); Fishers Summer Concert Series (Tuesday nights, June-Aug.); Noblesville Thursday Night concerts (Dillon Park & Forest Park, 7-9 p.m.)
- Fishers Freedom Festival (June 24-25): <http://bit.ly/2plcFDn>
  - Volunteer at Fishers Freedom Festival: <http://bit.ly/2q3ZEg8>
- Fishers & Noblesville Book clubs: <http://bit.ly/2pkV3XX>
- SERVE Noblesville (June 28 - July 1): <http://servenoblesville.com/>
- Volunteer with Main Street: <https://bit.ly/2pzXcLA>
- Serve in Fishers or Noblesville through a local ministry or organization (Hands of Hope, HAND Inc., Hamilton County Food Bank, Child Evangelism Fellowship, Youth for Christ, Youth Mentoring Initiative, Boys & Girls Club, Main Street Noblesville, etc.)

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## APPENDIX 4: PRACTICAL NEIGHBORING IDEAS

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- Invite your neighbors over for dinner.
- Host a game-watching party for a sporting event on TV.
- Start a walking/running group in the neighborhood.
- Organize a weekly playdate for other stay-at-home parents.
- Organize and host a craft night for the women in your neighborhood.
- Host a movie night and include discussion afterwards.
- Deliver cookies to your neighbor and invite them to drop by your house.
- Throw a block party this summer.
- Start a neighborhood Facebook group.
- Set up a “Meet Your Neighbors Night” with food and drinks in your driveway/front yard.
- Host a coffee and dessert night.
- Become a regular at your local neighborhood pool/park.
- Host a game night (yard games outside or board games inside).
- Coordinate a summer BBQ every Friday night and invite others on your street to take turns hosting.
- Organize a tasting tour on your street (everyone sets up a table with food on their front porch).
- Volunteer to coach a local kids’ sports team.
- Join a local adult sports league.
- Host a front yard ice cream party.
- Bring baked goods to new neighbors when they move in. Include a card with a list of local grocery stores, movie theaters, dry cleaners, parks, churches, and information about garbage pickup.
- Get outside—look for ways to spent time in your front yard!

#cpcCometoJesus

