

Welcome to week two of **NEXT**. Have you ever been driving and ended up in a place you did not expect? Of course, you weren't lost (other people get lost – not you) but somehow you arrived somewhere surprising. When that happens, we usually ask ourselves, "How in the world did I get here?" Or maybe you've been working at a job you never thought you'd have and one day, you look around and wonder the same thing: "How did I get here?" It's a good and important question to ask. If we are at a place in life that is not where we want to be, asking "How did I get here?" can help us figure out what steps we need to take to make a change. Whether our present circumstances are good or bad, asking that question helps us to reflect on the goodness of God. When we explore our past, God's work in our life becomes clearer. When we look back, we will begin to see the hand of God at work where we hadn't noticed before. This week we want your group to take a moment, stop, and reflect on what God has done to bring us to this place.

## **SESSION 2:** **HOW DID WE GET HERE?**

# SMALL TALK

During each session, we will begin with a question or brief activity designed to get everyone on the same page for the session.

**1** Since the theme of this session is “How Did We Get Here?” have your group members spend some time sharing about a trip they took that didn’t go quite as expected.

**2** For those who might be willing to share: What from Session 1 stuck with you during the past week? Did anything from that session impact your life in a surprising way?

# TEACHING

During each session in **NEXT**, we will be watching a teaching from Pastor Greg Surratt as he walks us through Luke 5:1-11. In this passage, Peter encounters Jesus and realizes that God has more in store for him than where he is. Their meeting might never have happened if Peter hadn’t been right where God wanted him. It can be easy for us to grow restless but this week we want to remind ourselves that God has us where we are for a reason.

**SHOW DVD SESSION 2**



# REFLECT

In the questions that follow, your group will spend some time reflecting on the teaching you just experienced.

**1** In Joshua 4:5-7, the Israelites are told to set up stones that would serve as reminders to their descendants of all the things God has done. Why is it important to remember our past?

**2** Pastor Greg taught us that responding to God was the first thing that brought us "here." What are some daily opportunities we have to respond to God?

**3** Once we respond to God, he will ask us to push out deeper. Can you think of an example of this from your own life? How did you respond?

**4** Embracing uncertainty will help us to trust God when he asks us to push out deeper. How else can we overcome our reluctance to respond to God in obedience?

# RESPOND

Now that we have spent some time reflecting on what God is saying to us, we want to consider some possible next steps.

**1** We have chances every day to respond to God but we probably miss a lot of them. What is keeping you from responding to God in certain situations? How can you begin to change that?

**2** If you are aware of an area in your life where God is calling you to push out deeper, are there any steps you can take to follow him?

**3** Spend some time on your own this week reflecting on this teaching. How did you get “here”? Where can you see God’s role in guiding your life? Is there anything from your past that you have a better understanding of now that you are trying to see it from God’s perspective?

**4** Allow everyone to answer this question: “How can we pray for you this week?” Be sure to write prayer requests on your Prayer and Praise Report on page ???.

**Close the session in prayer.**

# GOING DEEPER

You can explore the following Bible passage as a group (if there is time) or on your own between sessions.

**Read Genesis 12:1-9.** Abram was a man whom God would bless immeasurably. God chose to bless him because Abram responded to God. When God told Abram to pack up his household and move, he did. When God told him his descendants would be innumerable, Abram believed him. Read this example of incredible faith and consider the questions below.

**1** What stands out to you in this passage? Where is God drawing your attention?

**2** Abram's obedient response did not merely change his own life; everyone who lived with him or worked for him had to pick up their lives and move to a strange new land. How might our daily obedience to God affect the lives of those around us?

**3** Aside from your decision to follow Christ, what is the most significant step of obedience to God that you have taken? How has it transformed your life?

# DAILY REFLECTIONS

These are daily reviews of some key Bible verses that will help you think about and apply the insights from this session. The questions are meant to help you reflect on truths related to each week's topic.

## **Day 1 – Mark 2:14**

Get Up and Follow

*As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Levi got up and followed him. (NLT)*

God asks us to follow him every day. Are you prepared to respond in faith?

## **Day 2 – Joshua 14:12**

Just as the Lord Said

*So give me the hill country that the LORD promised me. You will remember that as scouts we found the descendants of Anak living there in great, walled towns. But if the LORD is with me, I will drive them out of the land, just as the LORD said." (NLT)*

When you respond to God, are you trusting in your own ability, or in his strength and his promises to you?

## **Day 3 – 1 Peter 2:21**

In His Steps

*For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps. (NIV)*

Sometimes following Christ can be difficult. Are you willing to follow in his example of suffering?

## Day 4 – Deuteronomy 29:29

Accountable

*The LORD our God has secrets known to no one. We are not accountable for them, but we and our children are accountable forever for all that he has revealed to us, so that we may obey all the terms of these instructions. (NLT)*

Even though we sometimes do not understand God, we are still expected to trust and follow him.

## Day 5 – Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart;  
do not depend on your own understanding.  
Seek his will in all you do,  
and he will show you which path to take. (NLT)*

What uncertainty do you need to embrace this week?

# MEMORY VERSE

**Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish.” —Luke 5:3-4 [NLT]**