

# LifeGroups

## *“The Cross-Shaped Life”*

Mark 3:13-19

*UPC is engaged in a study of the book of Mark entitled “The Cross-Shaped Life.” The goal of this weekly discussion guide is to help you, your family, and/or your Life Group dig into the Sunday sermon and the Bible in community with one another. As Christians in the first century were devoted “to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42), we want our Life Groups to be places where life-changing encounters with God and with each other are constantly taking place.*

***This week’s main point:** In Mark 3:13-19 we see Jesus calling his disciples to live a cross-shaped life. He appointed them to be with him (**transformation**) and be sent out by him (**proclamation** and **demonstration**), which resulted in the **multiplication** of the number of people who became his followers. As he did in the first century, Jesus is still calling people today to these key elements of the cross-shaped life.*

*One of the things that often hinder people from devoting themselves to gospel transformation, proclamation, demonstration, and multiplication is the fear that they are not good enough. You will learn this week that Jesus is not looking for extraordinary people. The Twelve were ordinary laborers, fishermen, and tax collectors. Discipleship is not about what you are capable of doing, but what Jesus is capable of doing through you.*

## Share

*Talk about someone who has been a major, positive influence in your life. Have you had a role model or mentor in your life, someone whose example or teaching you have tried to follow?*

## Study

1. **Read Mark 3:13-19.**
2. *What is one thing that stands out to you in this week's passage?*
3. *Why do you suppose Jesus chose twelve disciples and not some other number? How are they different from the crowd? Are there any surprising things about the list?*
4. *Read Luke's account in **Luke 6:12-16**. What immediately preceded Jesus' designation of the Twelve? What do you find significant about that detail?*
5. *To what specific activities did Jesus call the disciples?*
6. *Where would the power come from for these very ordinary men to accomplish extraordinary things for the Kingdom?*

## See Jesus

1. *What does the calling of the Twelve say to you about Jesus and his purposes?*
2. *Notice in vss. 16-19 that Jesus renames several of the disciples. What does that reveal about Jesus' ministry and character?*
3. *Why would Jesus call Judas Iscariot to follow him, when he knew very well that Judas would betray him?*
4. *A fundamental question about Jesus arises from this week's passage. Jesus could have accomplished the salvation of sinners on his own, without any involvement by us. Why did he pour himself into twelve men, and why does he continue to insist on our participation in the Great Commission when we often perform so poorly?!*

## Send

1. *Do you enjoy spending time with Jesus in his Word and in prayer? Do you realize that he enjoys spending time with you? If so, celebrate that! If not, explore what might be missing in your personal time with God.*
2. *Are you more effective at gospel proclamation or gospel demonstration? Identify a couple of ways you have done one or the other in the last few weeks. What might you do to improve in the area in which you are weaker?*

3. *Does your Life Group have a mission (apart from the things group members are involved in individually)? How might your Life Group grow in gospel proclamation or demonstration as a group?*

## **S**upplicate

- ◆ *Pray that we at UPC will make the greatest contribution possible to the completion of the Great Commission.*
- ◆ *Pray for Katie Kinnaird. She was hospitalized last week for a brain hemorrhage and continues to feel its effects.*
- ◆ *Pray that our congregation will be passionate about living cross-shaped lives: spending time with God, participating in corporate worship, engaging in genuine community, spreading the gospel by word and deed, and multiplying disciples in east Orlando and around the world.*
- ◆ *Pray for our church of the week: Grace Journey Community*
- ◆ *Pray for our missionary of the week: Matthew Philbrick, Japan*
- ◆ *Pray for our unreached people group of the week: Teli of Pakistan*