### WELCOME / OPEN IN PRAYER

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Share the topic & takeaway this week from above

#### **REVIEW FROM LAST WEEK:**

Did you identify any regrets that you have moved away from so that you can live a fuller life in Christ?

**GOD-STORIES:** A God-story is an undeniable encounter or experience with God that creates an impact or breakthrough in a person's day-to-day life.

**REVIEW THE GUIDELINES:** Share the guidelines to set the rails for group time

## **WEEK #1**

TITLE: A letter to the American church THEME: The Gospel is not really all about you, its all about Jesus!

**TAKEAWAY:** There is a way that you can be right, and it begins by leaving behind your self-righteousness and humbly receiving the Good News of Jesus!

SAFE ENVIRONMENT | CONFIDENTIALITY | LISTEN | PAUSE | SILENCE | NO "CROSS TALK" NO FIXING | NO RESCUING | SHARING | SELF AWARE | "I" STATEMENTS | CONFLICT

# ASK A THOUGHT-PROVOKING QUESTION TO GET THE GROUP FOCUSED

When was the last time you had an argument on social media? Did you feel your were right?

NOTE TO SMALL GROUP LEADER: Throughout this series, we will extensively discuss the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus. There may be someone in your group that has never heard the Gospel. If an opportunity presents itself in the group, take some time to share a short Gospel presentation with them. Salvation can come at any time.

### SHARE BACKGROUND AND PROVIDE CONTEXT TO THE BIBLE STORY.

The apostle Paul and Barnabas traveled together on their first missionary journey around AD 46-49. At each location on their journey, they preached the Gospel, and many people came to believe. However, they also faced opposition from the Jewish leaders, and at one point Paul was even stoned and left for dead. Despite the challenges, they were able to establish churches in each city and appoint elders to lead them. The journey concluded with the pair retracing their steps and visiting the churches again to encourage and strengthen the believers. This trip set the foundation for future missionary

journeys and the spread of Christianity throughout the Roman Empire. Acts 13:13-49 is the proclamation of the Gospel message and the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies through Jesus Christ. Paul's sermon highlights the importance of Jesus as the Savior and encourages the people to repent and believe in Him for salvation. The message emphasizes that the Gospel is for both Jews and Gentiles, regardless of their background or status and those who accept the message will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

### VOLUNTEER FROM LAST WEEK SHARES THE STORY (ACTS 13:13-49)

INVITE EVERYONE TO ENGAGE BY BUILDING THE STORY.

READ SCRIPTURE OUT LOUD TO SEE IF ANYTHING WAS ADDED OR OMITTED

### **DIVE DEEPER WITH DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1. Before joining this group tonight, what description would you have given for the Gospel, if someone had asked you?
- 2. From our story tonight, how would you describe the power of the Gospel (the Good News of Jesus) to others?
- 3. If an opportunity came to you tomorrow to share the Gospel, would you be ready and eager to share? Why or why not?
- 4. Who in your life needs to hear the Gospel? How can we as a group pray for you?

ASSIGN NEXT WEEK'S STORY (ACTS 17:16-34)

PRAYER REQUESTS Share & record prayer requests & follow up throughout the week

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO CLOSE IN PRAYER.