



LEAN IN

SOMEWHERE TO START

Lean In

Part 2 - "The Impact of Caring (and the Freedom of We)"

Small Group Material

November 6th, 2016

Leader Guide

Bottom Line: *I Can't....But We Can!*

Study Verses: *2 Corinthians 5:18-19, 1 Corinthians 12:14-25, Matthew 25:14-30*

Define The Win: *Participants would see how valuable their contribution is to our overall impact as a church. Group members would understand how comparison hinders unity from taking root in our community. They would continue to explore where God is moving in their life and how they can be used to make His name known in the world.*

Key Points

- *Engage the LOST. Empower the MOST VULNERABLE. Equip the NEXT GENERATION.*
- *Our ministry is the message.*
- *The impact of caring isn't stress, but compassion.*
- *You own your effort - not the results. You own your part - not the whole.*

ENCOUNTER

- **Where do you tend to fall victim to the comparison trap? Why are you vulnerable in this area? Where does comparison show up in how you interact with others in your faith community?**

- Are you a person who likes to be in the spotlight? Why or why not? How does your answer shape your vulnerability to pride and arrogance as well as insecurity and inactivity?
- "I can't, but we can." How freeing is it to know you are part of church that views change and impact as a community effort? How does one develop a "we" mindset?
- What is the difference between trying to **CONVINCE THE LOST** versus **ENAGE THE LOST**? How do these mindsets influence the approach you take with others?

FORMATION

- Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-19. God entrusted us with the ministry of reconciliation. How does understanding this point change your willingness to own the mission and contribute your part? What happens to our message of reconciliation if we don't view each part as valuable?
- Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-25. How does this passage speak to the idea of shared ownership? What is the danger if one part of the body is not fully engaged?
- Read Matthew 25:14-30. How does engaging in the comparison game influence our contribution to the whole? How did the individual's perspective of God impact what he did with the talents he was given?

EXPRESSION

- Engage the lost. Empower the most vulnerable. Equip the next generation. Which of the three PC3 missions are you drawn to the most? Why do you feel a pull in this direction?
- Where do you need to own and trust your effort and let go of the results? Where do you need to own your part and not be consumed with doing everything by yourself?

"Sometimes the smallest step in the right direction ends up being the most important step of your life." -Stuart Hall

- Read the quote from Stuart Hall. As you continue to explore places where you can serve and invest, how does this quote challenge and inspire you? What are some small steps you can take to begin to unlock God's unique expression for your life?

LEADER INSIGHT: *It's easy to feel a sense of dread when you flip on the evening news or scan through the daily headlines of the USA Today. Being bombarded with the brokenness of this world can cause one to feel overwhelmed and stressed. There are so many places, issues and people who need help and hope. It is only natural to want to lend a hand for every issue that pulls at your heartstrings. Yet, by doing so, we often hurt more than we help. We lessen our overall contribution by being a mile wide but only an inch deep. We also rob others of opportunities to get involved by always jumping in to answer every call.*

It's impossible for one person to help everyone walk with God and solve all the problems facing the world. This is why we are building an "I can't, but we can!" culture at PC3. As a church filled with people bought in to the mission of "reaching people and helping them walk with God," we can leverage our combined influence to leave our mark on the world and make Christ's name known. We are better together than we are alone. Our strength is found in our combined effort. God has given us everything we need in order to do everything He wants.

The great news is that no one is depending on you to fulfill the mission of PC3 all by yourself. Please understand that this does not relieve you of your responsibility to help people or figure out God's unique expression for your life. In fact, it's quite the opposite. Knowing you are contributing to something much greater than yourself raises the level of your responsibility and ownership. Your part matters because without it our story would be incomplete and people in need would be missing out.

As we leaned into the process of figuring out what our unique expression is as a church, God led us to three specific calls. We want to engage the lost, empower the most vulnerable and equip the next generation. Everything we do as a church body is focused and centered on leveraging our combined resources to make movement in these areas. But, we can't do it without you.

The problem arises when one sees their story as being more significant or less important than others. Nothing inhibits unity from springing forth in a community more than comparison. Jealousy and pride can creep into our hearts. We can angle for the spotlight or avoid being noticed altogether. We can puff ourselves up and look for applause just as easily as we can shrink from our responsibility and feel completely insignificant.

God has delegated the responsibility of displaying His love to the world to the body of Christ. Each part of the body participating in this effort is critical in reflecting His image. If one part is not fully engaged it lessens the overall influence and impact of the body. He has drawn you to Himself and placed you in this body to be a part of reaching those you know and helping

them walk with God. Can you help everybody you know and solve every problem? Of course not, but you can do something. You can start somewhere. You can live out your unique expression. Each individual's contribution ultimately determines the overall effectiveness of the entire body. By becoming a part of the "we" you help increase PC3's capacity to help people walk with God and joining with us in saying "I can't, but we can!"