

Southwest Life Groups

A Place to Belong...A Place to Transform

Focus: To dig into our own hearts, by looking at the life of Christ, to see if we love people where they are at or if we need them to measure up to “our” standards.

Introduction: In each of our lives there are people we seem to listen to and allow to lead us, while there are others that we simply will not. We consider some to have earned the right to do so, and in a way feel they are worthy to lead and shepherd us. They have brought something to our lives and now have a voice in the way we live our lives.

- Share with us the attributes of these people who you see as your shepherds.
- Define for us the attributes of a leader who you struggle to follow.
- Assess the major differences between these two.

Leaders: Take time to share with the group a situation in your life where you have struggled with someone who tried to lead or guide you.

Text: Jesus had every right to lead people by simply telling them what to do. He could have led people by dragging them behind him. But what he did was truly amazing...he had a way about him that was completely approachable. His very nature was inviting. He was a leader of leaders but did it in a way that allowed people from all walks of life to run after him.

Mark 5:21:43

- Take some time to talk about what stands out to you in our story
- Describe these two individuals that meet Jesus and their world view.
- Assess how these two people probably viewed Jesus...one being an outcast while the other a distinguished, important Jew.
- Describe what it was about Jesus that made him so inviting to these two completely opposite people.

Application:

- What do people feel when they are around you...are you approachable?
- What do people feel when they are around our church?
- Are you the kind of leader that people feel loved with or bullied by?
- Assess our group...do all people feel welcomed and appreciated when they are in our presence?
- How is Christ helping you change more into his way of leadership this year?

Prayer: Break up into small groups and speak/pray candidly about yourself and how you come across to people.