

## **Radical Minimum Standard**

**April 27 | Group Guide**

### **Introduction and questions (10 minutes).**

On Sunday, we began a new sermon series called Radical Minimum Standard, focusing on becoming and making disciples of Jesus. Throughout the series, we will look at what Jesus and other New Testament writers taught about the life of discipleship to Jesus.

- Imagine you met someone who is unfamiliar with Christianity and wants to know what the “minimum standards” are for a life of discipleship to Jesus. What would you say?
- If you are a follower of Christ, what behaviors, practices, and attitudes in your life demonstrate your discipleship?
- To have a “vision” is to imagine a certain future. What do you think it means to have a “vision” for discipleship?

### **Read Scripture and discuss (25 minutes).**

Break into smaller groups to read Scripture and discuss your answers to the following prompts.

Jesus cast a vision for discipleship in His final command to His disciples. Read Matthew 28:19-20.

- This passage may be familiar to you. What does Jesus teach His disciples (then and now) about His vision for what it means to follow Him?
- What does this command reveal about Jesus’ priorities?
- If you’re honest with yourself, are your priorities in line with those set by Jesus for His followers in this passage?

John expressed the “minimum standard” for discipleship in his first letter. Read 1 John 2:3-6.

- What connection does John make between love and obedience?

Paul cast a vision for prioritizing discipleship to Jesus above everything else in his letter to the Philippians. Read Philippians 3:1-14.

Paul lists the things he used to put his confidence in. Before meeting Jesus, Paul placed his confidence in his scrupulous fulfillment of Jewish religious expectations.

- What about you? What did you put your confidence in before you met Jesus?
- What (besides Jesus) do you place your confidence in now?
- How would your life change if you shared Paul's vision for discipleship?

In verses 13-14, Paul compares his discipleship to Jesus to an arduous athletic competition that he has not yet won. Paul would have been familiar with Greek and Roman athletic competitions (think ancient Olympics).

- What would it look like to invest in your discipleship to Christ the way an athlete prepares for the Olympics?

Read Ephesians 2:8-10.

Sometimes Christians get uncomfortable talking about working on our discipleship or winning a prize – it can start to sound like someone is suggesting that we can “earn” our salvation. Ephesians 2:8-9 makes it clear that we cannot. Salvation is a gift.

But Ephesians 2:10 reminds us that there is indeed “work” for us to do – not work that earns our salvation but works that builds in us the character and nature of Christ and equips us to build that character and nature in others.

Jesus' vision is that we would be disciple-making disciples.

- What is one way you can invest in your discipleship to Jesus this week?
- What is one way you can spend time helping someone else grow as a disciple of Jesus this week?

### **Weekly reflection discussion (10 minutes)**

Throughout our Radical Minimum Standard series, we are providing a weekly reflection in which you are invited to take a close look at how Jesus interacted with His disciples. This week's reflection passage is John 1:19-51.

If people in your group engaged with the Week 1 Reflection, you are encouraged to listen to each other's noticings by asking the following questions:

- What did you notice in the text?
- What tension or contrast did you experience between the picture of discipleship in this passage and your own life?
- Was there an invitation to implement in your life?

Be on the lookout for these Weekly Reflections for the remainder of the Radical Minimum Standard Series.

**Finish with prayer requests and pray for one another (10 minutes).**

Break into groups of 3-4 and share with that smaller group any prayer requests that you may have. Then, take turns praying for one another, over the things that each person shared.