

IT'S WORTH IT 2.0

Discovering God's Plan for You in
a Place You Might Not *Expect*

LEADER GUIDE

Thank you for leading an *It's Worth It 2.0* Small Group!

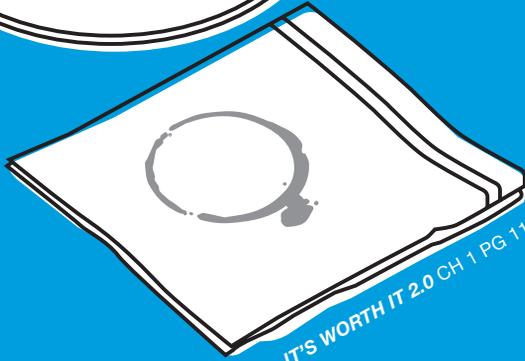
Life change happens through Small Groups—and that's why your role is so important! Discipleship becomes a reality when leaders like you step out to help others take their next steps. As you do, we're praying that God would meet you and fill you every step of the way. Through this process, the people in your Small Group will grow, and you will too. We're confident that by the end of this study, you will say that leading a Small Group was *worth it!*

To help you on your journey, we've provided you with this Leader Guide. It has everything you need to lead your group each week. If you need anything else during the course of the study, please reach out. Our team is here to help!

The Small Groups Team
Milestone Church

CONTENTS

Reading Plan	07
How To Use Your Leader Guide.....	08
How to Lead a Great Small Group.....	09
WEEKLY SMALL GROUP GUIDES	
Value #1 – The Bible Is Worth It	13
Value #2 – The Mission Is Worth It.....	23
Value #3 – Discipleship Is Worth It	33
Value #4 – Spiritual Family Is Worth It.....	43
Value #5 – Generosity Is Worth It.....	53
How Does the Holy Spirit Help Us?	63
What’s Next?	71



IT'S WORTH IT 20 CH 1 PG 11

READING PLAN

Section 2 from *It's Worth It 2.0* forms the basis for your Small Group discussion each week.

Your Small Group will cover specific chapters from the book. Read these chapters in preparation for your time together. You'll notice the end of each chapter has a Key Thoughts page for people in your group to read if they didn't have time to read the chapter during the week.

- Week 1 – Chapter 6, “The Bible Is Worth It”
- Week 2 – Chapter 7, “The Mission Is Worth It”
- Week 3 – Chapter 8, “Discipleship Is Worth It”
- Week 4 – Chapter 9, “Spiritual Family Is Worth It”
- Week 5 – Do Something Fun With Your Small Group
- Week 6 – Chapter 10, “Generosity Is Worth It”

- Week 7 – Chapter 11, “How Does the Holy Spirit Help Us?”

HOW TO USE YOUR LEADER GUIDE

Here is a brief explanation of your Leader Guide. Each week contains two sections:

1. Preparing for Your Group

Use the first section to help prepare for your Small Group meeting. It includes points on *What to Communicate* with your group, *What to Pray*, and *What to Expect* for your Small Group meetings. You'll want to review this section early each week.

2. Small Group

Use the second section when leading your Small Group. It's a good idea to read through this section in advance to make notes and select the questions and prayer points you like the most.

This section includes:

WARM UP AND INTRODUCTION: Begin each week by discussing an easy “warm up” question and then reading a short introduction to help focus everyone's attention on the topic of the lesson.

SMALL GROUP VIDEO: Play the Small Group video for your group. The videos are about 15 minutes and highlight a key thought from the reading. They also provide coaching from Pastor Jeff on how to activate each week's value. If your group meets in a public setting where videos are not practical, you can encourage your group to watch the videos on their own before meeting.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: This section provides questions for your Small Group to discuss. Don't feel pressured to discuss every question. Select the ones that seem most appropriate for your group, and give everyone plenty of time to share their thoughts. If you don't get through all the questions, that's okay.

VALUE ACTIVATION: One of the greatest features of this study is that you won't just talk about biblical values, you'll activate them in your life! Your Leader Bag contains cards that you can pass out every week. These cards will help activate each value. If you need additional cards, let the Small Groups Team know.

PRAYER: Praying together is one of the greatest privileges of a Small Group. This section will give you prayer points to help focus your group's prayer time. Also, use this time to take prayer requests and to pray for each other's needs.

HOW TO LEAD A GREAT SMALL GROUP

The next six weeks in your Small Group will be incredible! Here are a few principles to help you lead a great group:

1. Pray

It may sound obvious, but praying for your group is the best thing you can do. Your Leader Guide provides prayer points each week to help focus your prayers. Remember, your prayers don't have to be long. Just try to be consistent and watch what God does!

2. Prepare

Preparation is key to a successful group. Consider the following:

- Always communicate with your group before and after

you meet. Follow the tips in this Leader Guide to know exactly what to communicate every week.

- Make sure your meeting location is clean and tidy. If you're meeting in a home, play soft worship music in the background while people arrive. Providing snacks is great. If you have pets, be sure they are out of the way.
- Review the Small Group questions and watch the video each week before your meeting. This will help you familiarize yourself with the content and give you the chance to select the questions that will be most helpful for your group.

3. Follow a Schedule

Following a consistent schedule each week is important. Try not to let the group run long. Here is a simple 75-minute schedule you could follow:

- Meet, Greet, Mingle (15 minutes)
- Warm Up and Introduction (5 minutes)
- Video and Discussion (45 minutes)
- Prayer (10 minutes)

4. Facilitate, Don't Teach

Your goal is to facilitate the discussion and draw out the contribution of others. A successful group is one where everyone shares. As a facilitator, aim for an 80/20 ratio—where 80% of the talking is done by group members and only 20% by you.

WEEKLY

**SMALL
GROUP
GUIDES**



PREPARING FOR YOUR SMALL GROUP

VALUE #1

THE BIBLE IS WORTH IT

What to Communicate

- Contact everyone in your Small Group a few days before the group starts to remind them about the details (day, time, location, childcare, etc.).
- Let everyone know you are praying for them and that you are excited for the group to begin.
- Encourage everyone to read chapter 6 of *It's Worth It 2.0* in preparation for your group discussion. If they don't have time to read the entire chapter, there is a Key Thoughts page at the end of the chapter they can read instead.

What to Pray

- Begin praying that God would bring the people He wants in your group. Trust His hand in forming your group.
- Pray that everyone would feel comfortable and that friendships would begin to form at your first meeting.
- Pray for the people in your Small Group to have a greater hunger for God's Word.
- As you've stepped out to lead a Small Group, pray and believe that the Holy Spirit will be with you and will help you.

What to Expect

The first week is always exciting! If you have a new group, you might not know who will show up, so contacting each person beforehand is a great practice. Some people may be joining a Small Group for the first time, and they might feel nervous or excited. Plan on spending 10-20 minutes breaking the ice with everyone. Have snacks ready when people arrive and spend time getting to know each other. Setting out name tags for everyone is also a good idea. Before you start the Small Group discussion, go around the room and have everyone share a little bit about themselves (name, family, job, hobbies or interests, etc.).

As you prepare for your first meeting, read chapter 6 of *It's Worth It 2.0*. You'll notice the chapter highlights some key cultural issues we must submit to the authority of God's Word. These include:

(1) racism, (2) salvation through Jesus alone, and (3) the biblical definition of marriage. These can be hot-button topics, so don't feel like you have to bring them up in your group. But if someone asks about them, remember the goal of your group is not to debate or argue. We are all growing and learning. Your job is simply to open up dialogue and help people take a next step in their walk with God. If any questions come up during your discussion that you need help answering, please let the Small Groups Team know. We're here to help!



IT'S WORTH IT 2.0 CH 6 PG 84



SMALL GROUP

VALUE #1

THE BIBLE IS WORTH IT

WARM UP

What are some of the loudest voices competing for our attention today?

INTRODUCTION

We're surrounded by voices clamoring for our attention. Whatever dominates our attention fills our mind and affects our choices. So, the best decision we can make is to set the Bible up as the highest voice of truth in our lives. Today, let's talk about how prioritizing the Bible is worth it and how to activate the Bible in our lives.

PLAY VIDEO

Value #1 – The Bible Is Worth It

Verse 3 – Observations

- God made everything through the power of Jesus.
- Nothing exists without Jesus.

Verse 4 – Observations

- Jesus gives us life.
- Jesus gives us light.
- Ask: What do the images of life and light make you think of?

Verse 5 – Observations

- Jesus' light overcomes the darkness.
- Ask: What does the image of darkness make you think of?
- The darkness cannot defeat God's light.
- Jesus is more powerful than all the forces of darkness.

A – Application | Ask: How do the observations you made apply to our lives?

Here are some possible application points you

could use to help guide the discussion:

- Jesus is the highest power in the universe.
- Jesus is in control of everything in the world and in my life.
- I have received Jesus' life and His light.
- I can shine for Jesus no matter what.
- Jesus' power overcomes anything I face.
- Am I reflecting God's life and His light in my life?
- Does this passage speak to something I am facing right now? What is God saying to me?

P – Prayer | Pray together. Go around the group and have each person say a one-sentence prayer, reflecting on something from John 1:3-5.

This will be a powerful moment for your group. It might be someone's first time to pray out loud. If so, encourage them and celebrate this moment together.

VALUE ACTIVATION: THE BIBLE

We have to read the Bible to activate it in our lives. Commit to reading a chapter of the Bible every day for the next three weeks.

21-Day Bible Challenge

There are 21 chapters in the book of John. Commit to read one chapter each day. As you read, ask God to highlight a verse or two from the chapter. As He does, apply the S.O.A.P. method to those verses. Then text your Small Group what God showed you. Pass out the Value #1 cards to your group. These cards summarize the S.O.A.P. method.

This is a great way to hear from God through His Word every day, but you will also find that God speaks to you through your Small Group as you text each other throughout the day.

If the people in your group have already read through the book of John in the past, you can pick another section of the Bible to go through. The General Epistles (James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude) also total 21 chapters. That might be another great option for your group to read.

PRAYER

- Pray for anyone who is facing current challenges in their lives.
- Commit the 21-Day Bible Challenge to God. Ask God to speak to each person in your group and to activate His Word in your lives over the next three weeks.
- Take prayer requests and pray for any needs in the group.



PREPARING FOR YOUR SMALL GROUP

VALUE #2

THE MISSION IS WORTH IT

What to Communicate

- Follow up personally with each person who came to your group (text, phone call, or personal email) to thank them for coming and to invite them back next week.
- If anyone missed the group, be sure to reach out and see if they need anything.
- Send out any prayer requests to the group.
- Remind everyone to read chapter 7 from *It's Worth It 2.0*.

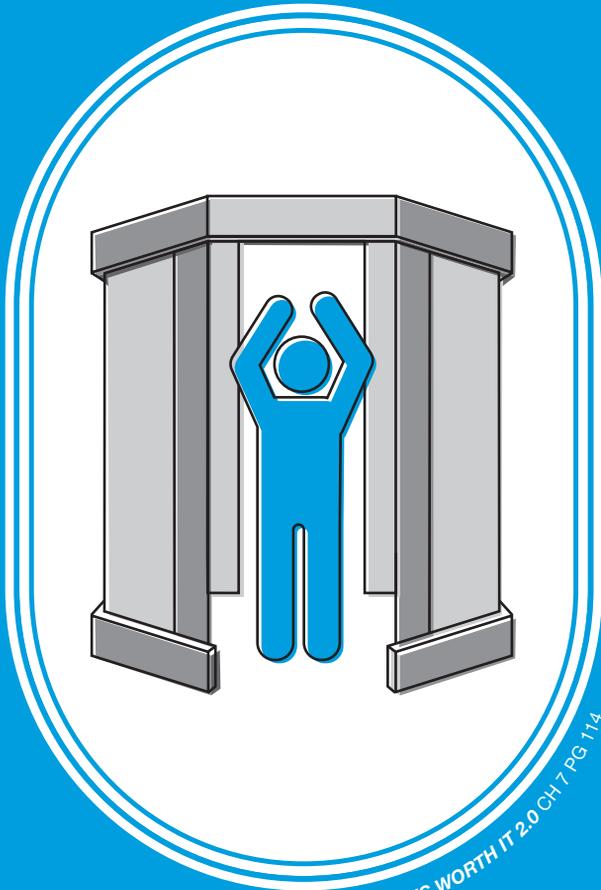
- Take the lead in texting your group every day with your takeaways from the 21-Day Bible Challenge. Encourage your group to participate with you.

What to Pray

- Pray that everyone would come back.
- Pray for any prayer requests that were mentioned at your first meeting.
- Pray that God would speak to each person in your group as they activate His Word in their lives.
- This week's lesson is about living on mission for Jesus. Pray that God would stir up a desire in each person to reach people for Jesus!

What to Expect

You have the first week under your belt, and Week 2 will be a great chance for everyone to connect more. If you follow up with everyone this week, you should have a good idea of who will be at the next meeting. You may have some new faces this week, so plan a fun ice-breaker question again to kick things off and help everyone get to know each other better.



IT'S WORTH IT 2.0 CH 7 PG 114



SMALL GROUP

VALUE #2

THE MISSION IS WORTH IT

WARM UP

Who is someone you care about and would do anything for? Why do you care about this person so much?

INTRODUCTION

We all have people we care about and would do anything for. What's mind-blowing is to think that God cares about everyone that way! He loves us so much that He gave everything to save us. And He wants everyone to come to know Him. What's more, He invites us to join Him in His mission to reach others. Today we'll talk about how the mission is worth it, and how you can activate God's mission in your life.

Are you more like the prodigal son or the brother? Explain.

4. Look at “What Keeps Us from the Mission?” on pages 120-121. Which of the four reasons do you struggle with the most? Why?
5. Look at “Our Part in God’s Mission” on pages 122-126. Which of these areas can you take a step in? What will you do?

VALUE ACTIVATION: THE MISSION

One way to participate in God's mission is to begin praying for people you know who need to give their lives to Christ. Think of this as: **Prayer Leads to Care**. The more you pray for people, the more you experience God's heart for them. This will make it easier to serve them and invite them to church.

Prayer Cards

- Pass out the Value #2 cards to everyone in the group.
- Have everyone write down the names of people they will pray for to give their lives to Christ.
- Ask everyone to share who they placed on their cards.
- Commit to pray regularly for the people on your card. Place it somewhere you will see it every day.

PRAYER

- Pray that everyone in your group would receive God's heart for reaching people.
- Pray for everyone to grow in their compassion for others, and that they would activate God's mission in their everyday lives.
- Take prayer requests and pray for any needs in the group.



PREPARING FOR YOUR SMALL GROUP

VALUE #3

DISCIPLESHIP IS WORTH IT

What to Communicate

- Follow up again with everyone in your group to thank them for coming.
- Send out prayer requests from the last group meeting.
- If anyone missed the group, be sure to reach out and see if they need anything.
- Encourage everyone to read chapter 8 from *It's Worth It 2.0*.
- Continue texting your group every day with your takeaways from the 21-Day Bible Challenge.

What to Pray

- Pray that everyone would come back next week.
- Pray for the people you listed on your prayer card last week.
- Pray for any prayer requests that were mentioned at your last meeting.
- This week's lesson is about discipleship. Pray that God would stir up a desire in each person to take a next step and to help others take their next steps.

What to Expect

At this point, you should notice your group feeling more comfortable with each other and opening up more. Friendships should start forming, and you might find people hanging out for a while after your Small Group ends. This is a good thing! Capitalize on the deepening friendships this week when discussing the topic of discipleship. Discipleship doesn't happen without others.



**EVERYTHING
THAT'S HEALTHY
GROWS. HEALTHY
PEOPLE GROW.
HEALTHY
BUSINESSES
GROW. HEALTHY
SCHOOLS GROW.
AND HEALTHY
CHURCHES
GROW.**



SMALL GROUP

VALUE #3

DISCIPLESHIP IS WORTH IT

WARM UP

Who is someone that has coached or mentored you? What was that like?

INTRODUCTION

Many people have had a coach or a mentor for some part of their lives. But what about for your spiritual growth? Who is pouring into you spiritually, and who are you pouring yourself into? This week we are going to talk about the value of discipleship, the connection between being a disciple and making a disciple, and how to activate discipleship in our lives.

PLAY VIDEO

Value #3 – Discipleship Is Worth It

4. How is “be a disciple” always connected to “make a disciple” (see pages 140-141)?

5. Look at the examples of “identifiable growth” on pages 142-143. Which of these areas do you need to grow in the most right now?
 - Are you reading your Bible and growing in your understanding of God’s Word?
 - Are you regularly experiencing God’s presence through your prayer life and times of worship?
 - Do the people closest to you see growth in your character and the way you love and serve others?
 - Are you using your gifts to serve others through your connection to spiritual family?
 - Are you reproducing what God is doing in you in someone else?

VALUE ACTIVATION: DISCIPLESHIP

The idea of discipleship can feel intimidating at first. It takes intentionality, effort, and time. But answering a few simple questions can help you start activating this value in your life.

Pass out the Value #3 cards to everyone in the group. Have everyone answer the three questions on their card.

1. **What is my next step?**

This could be completing the Growth Track (Discovery 101, Serve Team 201, or Values 301), starting to serve, developing an area of your character, reading your Bible more, spending more time in prayer and worship, or just asking someone for help with a question you have or a challenge you're facing. Share your next step with the people in your Small Group.

2. **Who can I ask for help to take my next step?**

Whatever your next step is, can you think of someone who can help you take it? Who is that person?

3. **Who around me needs to be disciplined?**

Write down the name of someone God brings to your mind. Begin praying for this person this week. Look for an opportunity to connect.

Have everyone share what they wrote for their next steps.

PRAYER

- Pray for everyone to take a next step this week in their walk with God.
- Pray that God would help people make friendships where they can ask someone for help and begin helping someone else.
- Take prayer requests and pray for any needs in the group.



PREPARING FOR YOUR SMALL GROUP

VALUE #4

SPIRITUAL FAMILY IS WORTH IT

What to Communicate

- Send out prayer requests to your group.
- If anyone missed the group, be sure to reach out and see if they need anything.
- Encourage everyone to read chapter 9 from *It's Worth It 2.0*.
- This is the final week of the 21-Day Bible Challenge. Continue texting your group every day. If your group wants to continue the challenge after this week, go for it!

What to Pray

- Pray for any prayer requests that were mentioned at your last meeting.
- Continue praying that God would speak to everyone as they read His Word.
- This week's topic is about spiritual family. This topic is often new for people to read about. Pray that God would give the people in your group revelation of spiritual family and for each person to grow.
- Pray that God would deepen the relationships that are forming in the group.

What to Expect

Congratulations—you're already halfway through the study! We hope God is doing amazing things in people's lives. If you have a great story or testimony from your group, please share it with us at smallgroups@milestonechurch.com. We would love to hear from you and celebrate with you!

The topic of spiritual family is often new. Sometimes it brings up fond memories, but if someone has experienced past hurt, either from their natural families or from church experience, the topic can be painful. Give everyone time to share in the group discussion, and trust God to lead your conversation. This can be a great week for your group to grow deeper together.

One of the ways for you to activate this week's topic in your Small Group is to do something fun together. Plan on taking a break

from your discussion next week. Whether you go out or simply have everyone over to eat and play games, do something fun, laugh, and connect. It's the best thing you can do!

God
places us
in His
family.

IT'S WORTH IT 2.0
CH 9 PG 159



SMALL GROUP

VALUE #4

SPIRITUAL FAMILY IS WORTH IT

WARM UP

When you hear the phrase “spiritual family,” what do you think of?

INTRODUCTION

When you look across the pages of the Bible, God always starts with the family. It was His plan from the beginning. God saved us from sin, but He also placed us in spiritual family. This topic is incredibly rewarding but also challenging. Today, let’s talk about how spiritual family is worth it, and how to activate this incredible value in our lives.

PLAY VIDEO

Value #4 – Spiritual Family Is Worth It

VALUE ACTIVATION: SPIRITUAL FAMILY

The fact that you're in a Small Group means you've already taken steps to engage in spiritual family. So, here are two ways to activate this value in your life at an even deeper level.

1. **Lean in during challenges.**

One of the ways we grow in spiritual family is by leaning in when challenges come. Pass out the Value #4 cards. Give people time to write down their responses to the questions on the card.

- *What's a challenge I'm facing right now?*
- *What's an offense or hurt I'm carrying?*
- *What's an area I need help growing in or being developed in?*
- *Who can I go to this week to ask for help in one of these areas?*

Spend a few minutes filling out the cards. Ask everyone to share their answers with the group if they feel comfortable.

2. **Do something fun with your Small Group.**

One of the best ways for your Small Group to connect and grow closer is by doing something fun together. Plan on taking a break from the discussion next week, and talk to your group about doing something fun. You could go out to eat or gather at someone's

home to play games. Whatever you do, have fun, laugh, and connect!

PRAYER

- Pray for anyone who responded to the value activation questions above.
- Pray for each person in your group to experience spiritual family the way God intended.
- Take prayer requests and pray for any needs in the group.



PREPARING FOR YOUR SMALL GROUP

VALUE #5

GENEROSITY IS WORTH IT

What to Communicate

- Send out the prayer requests to your group.
- If anyone missed the group, be sure to reach out and see if they need anything.
- Encourage everyone to read chapter 10 from *It's Worth It 2.0*.

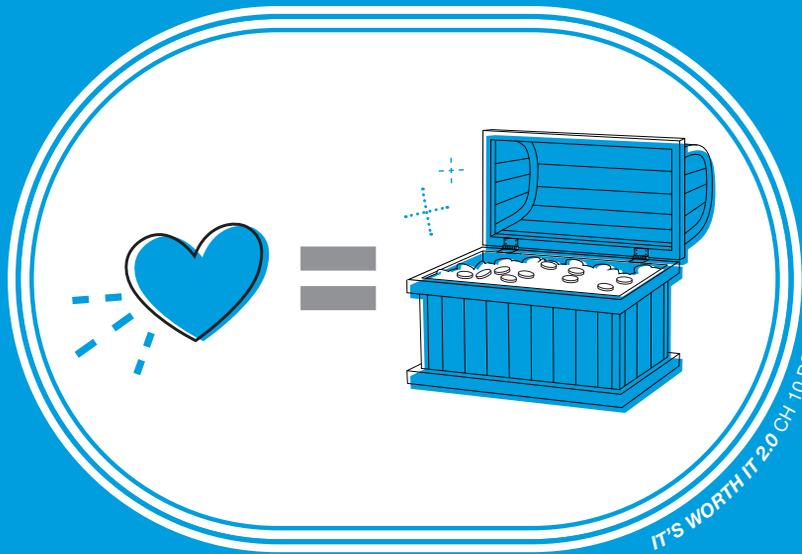
What to Pray

- Pray for any prayer requests that were mentioned at your last meeting.

- This week's topic is about generosity. Pray that God would open people's eyes to the truth that we are never more like Jesus than when we're generous.
- Pray for each person to grow in their level of generosity—through their time, talents, and treasure.

What to Expect

There are only two weeks left in the *It's Worth It 2.0* study. It's time to start looking ahead. We're encouraging every group to continue meeting for three weeks after *It's Worth It 2.0* ends. We'll provide Message Discussion Guides each week for your group to discuss.



IT'S WORTH IT 2.0 CH 10 PG 179



SMALL GROUP

VALUE #5

GENEROSITY IS WORTH IT

WARM UP

Who is the most generous person you know? What's it like to be with this person?

INTRODUCTION

God wants all of us to be generous. We're never more like Jesus than when we're generous. But generosity isn't about money, it's an attitude. It's about our hearts. Today, we'll talk about how generosity is worth it, and how to activate the power of generosity in our lives.

PLAY VIDEO

Value #5 – Generosity Is Worth It

DISCUSSION

1. What's the difference between money and generosity?
2. Why can't we be like Jesus without being generous?
3. Why does God want us to be generous? What's He really after?

7. How does trusting God as your source change how you view money?

VALUE ACTIVATION: GENEROSITY

To activate generosity, spend some time thinking about how you can invest your time, talent, and treasure this week.

Time, Talent, and Treasure

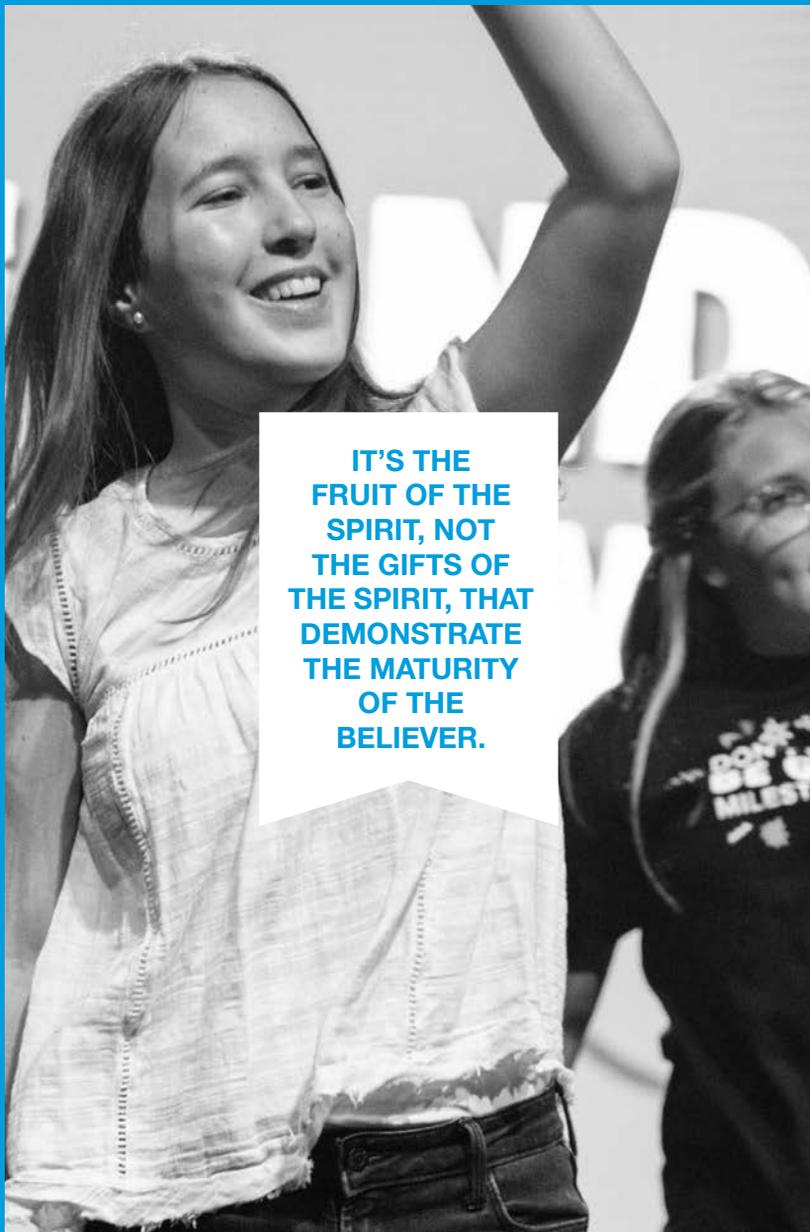
Pass out the Value #5 cards to your group. Ask:
What is something practical I can do to invest in these areas this week?

- *What can I do to invest my time this week?*
- *What can I do to invest my talent this week?*
- *What can I do to invest my treasure this week?*

Give everyone time to write down their answers.
Ask if anyone wants to share what they wrote.

PRAYER

- Pray for anyone who responded to the value activation questions above.
- Pray for everyone in your Small Group to grow in their level of generosity and to trust God as their source.
- Take prayer requests and pray for any needs in the group.



**IT'S THE
FRUIT OF THE
SPIRIT, NOT
THE GIFTS OF
THE SPIRIT, THAT
DEMONSTRATE
THE MATURITY
OF THE
BELIEVER.**

PREPARING FOR YOUR SMALL GROUP

HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT HELP US?

What to Communicate

- Send out the prayer requests to your group.
- If anyone missed the group, be sure to reach out and see if they need anything.
- Encourage everyone to read chapter 11 from *It's Worth It 2.0*.

What to Pray

- Pray for any prayer requests that were mentioned at your last meeting.
- This is the final week of the *It's Worth It 2.0* series. Pray that the group would continue to meet and that your friendships would continue to grow even deeper.

- This week focuses on the Holy Spirit. Pray for every person in your group by name to desire more of the Holy Spirit in their lives.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would be with you during the group discussion and that each person would be filled with the Spirit this week.

What to Expect

This is it! This is the final week of the *It's Worth It 2.0* study, and the final topic is significant. The Holy Spirit is vital in activating every one of the biblical values we've discussed over the past five weeks. People come from various backgrounds regarding the Holy Spirit, so the goal this week is to help people assess where they are and take a step in their relationship with the Holy Spirit.

As you wrap up the discussion this week, remind your group that you will continue meeting for an additional three weeks to discuss the weekend messages.

We're heading towards our 20th Anniversary Celebration and Miracle Offering on November 12-13. It's going to be big, and we want everyone to take part! Encourage your group to continue meeting so you can celebrate together.

When the Holy Spirit is moving, there's power to be a witness, there's the bold proclamation of the Word, and there are people coming into a relationship with Jesus.

SMALL GROUP

HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT HELP US?

WARM UP

When someone says the phrase, “The Holy Spirit,” what’s the first word that comes to your mind?

INTRODUCTION

We all have different backgrounds and experiences with the Holy Spirit. Some people grew up in Christian traditions that taught a lot about the Holy Spirit—whether right or wrong—and others grew up not hearing much about Him at all. Regardless of your background, the good news is that we can all grow in our relationship with the Holy Spirit. Today, let’s talk about how the Holy Spirit helps us as we activate His presence in our lives.

PLAY VIDEO

How Does the Holy Spirit Help Us?

6. In what ways have you already felt the Holy Spirit help you in your life?

VALUE ACTIVATION: THE HOLY SPIRIT

The best way to relate to the Holy Spirit is to simply *be with Him*. Invite Him into your day-to-day life. Encourage everyone to set aside a few minutes every day this week to worship and seek God.

Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you every day.

Pass out the cards titled, “How Does the Holy Spirit Help Us?” Go over the verse and sample prayer on the card. Encourage everyone to place their card somewhere they will see it as a reminder to ask the Holy Spirit to fill them every day. Watch how this simple activity changes your entire day.

PRAYER

- Pray for everyone in your group to grow in their relationship with the Holy Spirit.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to fill each person every day.
- Take prayer requests and pray for any needs in the group.

WHAT'S NEXT

Thank you for leading an *It's Worth It 2.0* Small Group! We hope this has been an amazing experience, that the people in your Small Group have grown, and you have, too.

We're asking Small Groups to continue meeting for an additional three weeks. This will culminate with our 20th Anniversary Celebration and Miracle Offering on November 12-13.

Visit milestonechurch.com/groupleaders to download Message Discussion Guides each week.

Thank you, again, for leading a Small Group. If you have any questions or need anything, please email smallgroups@milestonechurch.com.

