

# WEEK 6 - How does Jesus interact with his diverse group of disciples?

Spring Emphasis 2024 // Canopy Guide

Love Your Neighbor

## CONVERSATION STARTERS

Use the questions below to kickstart a community building, all-play conversation that connects to our weekly topic. If your group meets for dinner, these might be great questions to share around a table.

- Jesus was around disciples who didn't always get along. Have you ever been "stuck in the middle"? How did you handle it?
- How diverse was the community in which you grew up? How diverse is it now?
- Have you ever lived in a diverse community? What was that like?

## STUDY GUIDE

When Jesus came to reveal the Father and introduce us to God's love he did some things we would consider strange. He selected 12 disciples to be with him throughout his ministry. He was really close to three of these folks, but none of us would have selected these 12 people to be the ones responsible to carry the message of life and love through the kingdom of heaven.

These folks were an odd mixed bag. The group consisted of hotheaded, leathered fishermen, a professional tax collector (meaning a collaborator with Roman occupiers), and a zealot who preferred all Romans dead, to name a few. He welcomed women into his group, which was unheard of at that time.

We get a fun glimpse into these folks when we see Peter cutting the ear off of the High Priest's servant in the garden the night Jesus was arrested. We see James and John asking Jesus if he wants them to call down fire from heaven on a village that didn't welcome them. And we also see the quiet ones like Andrew who knew that a boy had brought a sack lunch to a gathering, and Philip who was approached by some Greeks who wanted to see Jesus.

Jesus selected this very odd group of people as the platform to demonstrate that his love

is available to everyone, everywhere, no matter their social standing or spiritual condition.

### **Scripture to Read**

- Luke 9:51-56
- John 18:1-11

### **Deeper Discussion Questions**

1. Do you ever feel unworthy to stand among the disciples as one called to represent Jesus and his ministry? In light of knowing who the disciples were, do you think we need to feel this way?
2. Talk about the transformation the disciples experienced, at least the ones for whom we know some of the rest of their story.
3. How do we deal with conflict and differences of opinion or personality within our own group of diverse people who follow Jesus?

### **PRAYER**

Make sure to claim some time as a group each week to pray specifically for each other.

### **EXTRA RESOURCES/ARTICLES/RESEARCH**

1. [Crucial Conversations](#) book, or if you're in a time crunch, this blog from their team on "[Why People get Defensive and What you can do about it](#)" (lots of other great free professional & personal resources available by topic)
2. YouTube video clips from *The Chosen*, "[Why Can't the Disciples Just Get Along](#)" - not claiming 100% historical/Biblical accuracy, but it's a great creative visual to see the apostles as real people who clashed occasionally
3. Regent University Article "[A Study of Peter as a Model for Servant Leadership](#)" - summary of Peter's life, transformation, and leadership