



Week 2 Leader Guide

THE WIN

The group member will demonstrate understanding of partnership by completing a case study activity and discussing their feedback with fellow group members.

1-2
minutes

SERMON RECAP: WHAT DID THE TEXT MEAN? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

In the message this week we examined what it means to be a partner at Rush Creek. This was an important message for all to hear. If you missed the sermon be sure to visit rushcreek.org and spend some time listening to it this week.

3-5
minutes

WARM UP

Do This:

Without using the dictionary or your smart phone, share with the group the definitions for the following words: Member, Partner, Co-laborer

Ask:

What are the similarities of these words? What are the differences?

30-35
minutes

THE TEXT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

Do This:

- Move to groups of (3) and complete the following activity.
- Allow about 10-15 minutes and then reform the group.
- Have (1) spokesperson for each group briefly discuss their findings.

Say This:

Read the following case studies and discuss with the group what exemplifies partnership, what does not, and how might the characters be better partners at Rush Creek.

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- Leighanne joined Rush Creek 4 years ago but became a partner 1 year ago. Each year she participates in Operation Joy, Rush Week, Shreek on the Creek, and the annual Children's Hunger Fund food packing event. Leighanne brings numerous friends to Rush Creek's Night of Worship and even had a friend accept Jesus and get baptized. Leighanne is happy at Rush Creek and feels content.
 - Abby joined the church 9 years ago and immediately joined a small group. While she works weekends and cannot attend Sundays most of the time, she serves in the food pantry and mentors at-risk children two days per week. Abby is also active in local charities such as United Way and American Red Cross. Rush Creek fulfills her need to give back to her community as well as being a spiritual resource for her life.
 - Richie was invited to a small group at Rush Creek 2 years ago and has loved every minute. He particularly enjoys the preaching on Sundays. However, when a call is made to serve Richie struggles. God seems to be at work in his life. He's talked to his small group about serving and his group has encouraged him to start where he's comfortable but he's still unsure.

Ask This:

- Describe a time in your life when partnering with someone was difficult for you. What were the circumstances? Why was it difficult?
- If you were to give yourself a letter grade on how well you own the mission and vision of Rush Creek what would it be? Why? What would be required to raise your letter grade if needed?
- When partners own the vision the result is the level of intensity towards the vision increases. What would our group look like if our entire group owned the mission and vision of Rush Creek?
- In Philippians 1:1-11 we can see that Paul has strong feelings of love for the Philippian church. In vv. 9-11 Paul's feelings towards his fellow laborers led him to want what was best for them. **Discuss** what Paul wanted for the Philippians and then share with the group if you approach your group the same way. If so, does the gospel bring you close together or do relationships? Can it be both? What's the difference?
- There are some people who would say being a partner at a church doesn't really matter. They can give, serve, join a small group, and attend on Sunday without being a partner. What would you say to this person?

3-5
minutes

DIGGING DEEPER

Ask This:

What are your thoughts about these changes at Rush Creek? New name, new branding, new name for membership, new process for becoming a partner?