



Small Group Discussion Guide (a 6-Week Study)

Companion to *Strategically Small: Why a Bigger Church Was Never the Point* by Charlie Miller

How To Use This Guide

This guide is designed for small groups to work through Strategically Small together over six sessions.

You don't need a trained facilitator to lead these sessions. You just need someone willing to read the questions out loud and let people talk. The best discussions will happen when people feel safe enough to be honest, so give each other grace, give each other space, and resist the urge to fix what someone shares. Sometimes the most powerful thing a group can do is listen.

There are more questions in each session than you'll have time to cover. That's intentional. Pick the ones that fit your group. Skip the ones that don't. Linger where the conversation gets real. The goal isn't to get through every question. It's to get honest with each other and with God.

Each session has three types of questions. "In the Word" questions start in scripture and let you explore what the text actually says. "In the Book" questions connect the scripture to what you've read in the chapters. "In Your Life" questions bring it home to your own experience. You can move through all three, or spend the whole evening in one section if that's where the Spirit is leading.

A few ground rules that might help: let everyone speak before anyone speaks twice. It's okay to sit with silence for a moment after a question. Not every question needs to be answered by every person. And what's shared in the group stays in the group.

Read the assigned chapters before each session. The discussions will be richer if everyone comes having done the reading, but don't let someone's busy week keep them from showing up. Showing up matters more than being prepared.

Each session begins with a brief welcome, a few prayer prompts, and an opening question. These are designed to help you ease into the evening before the conversation goes deeper. The welcome gives you something to read aloud that sets the tone so you don't have to find the right words on the spot. The prayer prompts give your group a few things to focus on, and the opening question gets everyone talking before the harder questions come. Plan for about ten to fifteen minutes on these opening elements before moving into the Scripture readings and discussion questions.



How To Use This Guide (continued)

A note about the prayer time: if your group is new to praying out loud together, give people explicit permission to pray silently. You can say something like, “I’m going to read these prayer prompts, and then we’ll sit quietly for a couple of minutes. Pray however is comfortable for you, out loud or in your heart. I’ll close us out when it’s time to move on.” Don’t rush it, but don’t let it stretch so long that people get uncomfortable. Two or three minutes of focused prayer is plenty.

The opening questions are designed to be low-stakes and answerable by anyone. Nobody should feel put on the spot or unprepared. If a question doesn’t land for your group, don’t force it. Just move on. The point is to get people talking, not to perform. Once everyone has spoken once, even about something light, the deeper questions later in the session feel more approachable.

Session 1: What You Already Have

(Chapters 1-3)

Theme: Seeing your church with fresh eyes.



Welcome

Welcome to the first session of our Strategically Small study. Over the next six weeks, we're going to do something that might feel unusual: we're going to take a long, honest look at our church and ask what's actually here. Not what we wish were here. Not what we think is missing. What's already in the room. Some weeks will be encouraging. Some weeks will be challenging. All of them will be honest. The only thing we need from each other is the willingness to show up and tell the truth. So let's start there.

Opening Prayer

Before we begin, let's take a few minutes to pray together. You can pray silently or out loud, whatever feels natural for your group. Here are a few things to focus on:

Thank God for the specific people in this room. Not "the group" in the abstract. The actual people sitting around you right now.

Ask God to help you see your church the way He sees it this week, not through the lens of what's missing, but through the lens of what He's already built.

Pray for honesty and safety in this group over the next six weeks, that this would be a place where people can say what they actually think and feel.

Opening Question

Before we dig into the chapters, let's start with something simple. Go around the room and answer this:

What's one thing about our church that you'd have a hard time explaining to an outsider, but that means a lot to the people who are here?

Have volunteers read the following Scriptures:

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." — Matthew 18:20

"If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together."
— 1 Corinthians 12:26

"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity." — Proverbs 17:17

Discussion Questions

In the Word

1. Read Matthew 18:20 again slowly. Jesus says “two or three,” not two or three thousand. What does it say about God’s character that He defines His presence this way? Does this verse land differently for you as a member of a small church?
2. In 1 Corinthians 12:26, Paul says that when one member suffers, every member suffers together. For that to be true, the members have to actually know each other. What size of community makes that kind of mutual awareness possible? What happens to this verse in a room of five hundred versus a room of fifty?
3. Proverbs 17:17 says “a brother is born for adversity.” Think about the people in your church. Who has been that brother or sister for you in a hard season? What made their presence different from someone just being friendly?

In the Book

1. In Chapter 1, Linda looks around the room during worship and sees the stories behind the faces. If you looked around your church this Sunday the way Linda does, whose story would catch your eye? What would you see that a visitor couldn’t?
2. Chapter 2 talks about the difference between attendance and presence, the idea that a room of fifty people who know each other carries a weight that numbers can’t explain. Have you ever felt that weight? What does it feel like?
3. Chapter 3 says that the “everybody’s in your business” quality of a small church is a feature, not a bug. Be honest: is that easy for you, or does it make you uncomfortable?
4. The key insight from Chapter 1 is that in a small church, everyone is both the helper and the helped. When was the last time you were the one being carried?

In Your Life

1. Is it harder for you to carry others or to let others carry you? Why do you think that is?
2. Think about the last month at your church. What’s one moment, even a small one, where you felt genuinely grateful to be part of this community?
3. Linda’s church “would never be on a podcast.” What’s one thing about your church that would never make a highlight reel but matters deeply to the people in the room?

Discussion Questions (continued)

4. Chapter 3 talks about the discomfort of being seen on your bad days. Is there a part of your life right now that you're trying to keep hidden from your church family? What would it take for you to let people in?
5. If someone visited your church for the first time this Sunday, what would they feel that they couldn't see? What's invisible from the outside but unmistakable from the inside?

This Week's Assignment (pick one)

- Tell one person at church something specific you appreciate about them. Not "you're great" but something real. "The way you talked to that new family last Sunday meant more than you know."
- Write down three things about your church that you're genuinely grateful for. Keep the list somewhere you'll see it this week.
- Pay attention this week to a moment when someone in your church sees you, really sees you. Notice what that feels like. Bring it back to the group next session.

Session 2: The Lie You've Been Told

(Chapters 4-6)

Theme: Where the pressure comes from.



Welcome

Welcome back. Last week we talked about what we already have. This week we're going in a different direction. We're going to talk about where the pressure comes from, the quiet, persistent feeling that our church should be something other than what it is. This might be the most uncomfortable session in the study, because it names something most of us have felt but never said out loud. That's okay. This is a safe room. We're not here to be angry at anyone. We're here to be honest about something that's been shaping the way we see our church, maybe without us even realizing it.

Opening Prayer

Let's open in prayer. Here are a few things to bring before God tonight:

Ask God to show you where you've absorbed messages about your church that didn't come from Him. Not to feel guilty about it, but to see it clearly.

Pray for freedom from comparison, that God would loosen the grip of the measuring stick you didn't even know you were holding.

Thank God that He doesn't evaluate your church the way the world does. Ask Him to help you believe that tonight, not just know it.

Opening Question

Here's a low-stakes question to get us started:

Have you ever visited a church that was very different from ours, bigger, smaller, different style, whatever? What's one thing you noticed, good or bad, that stuck with you?

Have volunteers read the following Scriptures:

"For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." — 1 Samuel 16:7

"After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. So Jesus said to the twelve, 'Do you want to go away as well?' Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.'" — John 6:66-69

Opening Questions (continued)

“But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.” — 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8

Discussion Questions

In the Word

1. In 1 Samuel 16:7, God tells Samuel that He doesn't look at outward appearance but at the heart. We usually apply this to individuals. What happens when you apply it to a church? If God looked at your church's heart rather than its size, what would He see?
2. In John 6, Jesus watches His congregation shrink. Many disciples walk away. He doesn't chase them. He doesn't rebrand. He turns to the twelve and asks if they're leaving too. What does it tell you about Jesus that He let the crowd leave? What does Peter's response reveal about what holds people when everything else falls away?
3. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8 again. Paul says he shared “not only the gospel of God but also our own selves.” What's the difference between sharing the gospel with someone and sharing your life with them? Which one requires a small community? Can you share your actual self with a crowd?
4. Paul uses the image of a nursing mother. That's one of the most intimate, vulnerable, physically close images in all of Scripture. What does it suggest about the kind of community Paul was building? Could that image describe the ministry of your church?

In the Book

1. Chapter 4 names the “bigger-is-better gospel.” Where have you absorbed that message? A conference? A podcast? A conversation with a well-meaning friend? A feeling you couldn't name?
2. Chapter 5 describes the comparison trap, scrolling past another church's highlight reel and feeling that quiet ache. What triggers that for you? Is it a specific church, a specific platform, or something more general?
3. In Chapter 6, the author writes that the church “had built something people were attracted to” but “hadn't built something people were bound to.” What's the difference between those two things? Have you seen that distinction play out in your own experience?
4. Chapter 6 draws a line between consumers and family members. When you think about your own relationship to your church, which instinct do you recognize more in yourself?

Discussion Questions (continued)

In Your Life

1. Have you ever evaluated your church the way you'd evaluate a product, weighing whether it "meets your needs"? What prompted that? What did you do with it?
2. If you could go back and tell yourself something about your church before you absorbed the bigger-is-better message, what would you say?
3. The author says he planted a church and watched the consumer model break it from the inside. Is there anything in your church's history, or your own church history, that echoes that story?
4. Chapter 6 ends by saying, "Your church was never a brand. It was never meant to be. It was meant to be a family." Does your church feel more like a brand or a family right now? What makes the difference?

This Week's Assignment (pick one)

- Fast from one source of church comparison this week. A podcast, an Instagram account, a website, a YouTube channel. Just one. Notice how it affects the way you feel about your own church.
- Have an honest conversation with one person at church about something you love about your community. Not what you wish were different. What you love.
- Write down the "lie" as you've personally absorbed it. What's the sentence in your head that makes you feel like your church isn't enough? Look at it on paper. Then ask yourself: where did that come from?

Session 3: What The Bible Actually Describes (Chapters 7-9)

Theme: The biblical case for small.



Welcome

Welcome back. The first two weeks of this study were about looking at our church and looking at the cultural pressures around it. This week we're opening our Bibles and asking a straightforward question: what does the church in Scripture actually look like? You might be surprised. Or you might find that what's described in the New Testament looks a lot more like the room you're sitting in right now than you ever realized. Either way, this is the week where we let the Bible reframe the conversation.

Opening Prayer

Let's pray before we start. Here are a few things to focus on:

Ask God to give you fresh eyes for familiar passages. Some of the verses we'll look at tonight you've probably heard a hundred times. Ask Him to help you hear them like it's the first time.

Thank God for the early church, for the men and women who gathered in living rooms and changed the world. Ask Him to help you see the connection between their story and yours.

Pray that God would replace insecurity with gratitude as you see your church reflected in the pages of Scripture tonight.

Opening Question

Let's warm up with this one:

If you could travel back in time and visit any church or gathering described in the New Testament, which one would you want to sit in on, and why?

Have volunteers read the following Scriptures:

"Greet also the church in their house." — Romans 16:5

"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." — Luke 12:32

"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'" — Matthew 25:21

"When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up." — 1 Corinthians 14:26

Discussion Questions

In the Word

1. Romans 16:5 describes a church meeting in someone's house. Not a temporary arrangement. That was how church worked. Close your eyes and picture it: twenty to thirty people in a living room, sharing a meal, singing, praying, teaching each other. What do you notice about that picture? What's present there that might be missing in a larger gathering?
2. In Luke 12:32, Jesus calls His followers "little flock." He doesn't say "growing flock" or "future megaflock." He calls them little, and then He says the Father is pleased to give them the kingdom. What does it mean that the kingdom is given to the little, not promised to them when they get bigger?
3. The parable of the talents in Matthew 25 praises faithfulness with a few things. Not faithfulness with a lot. What would it look like for your church to hear "well done, good and faithful servant" based on what you've done with what you have, rather than what you haven't done with what you don't have?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 14:26. Paul says "each one" has something to bring. In what size of gathering is that actually possible? Have you ever been in a church setting where everyone could genuinely contribute? What was different about it?
5. Jesus chose twelve. Paul wrote to house churches of twenty or thirty. The early church multiplied by planting more small communities, not by building bigger ones. Does that pattern surprise you? Why do you think it's so rarely talked about?

In the Book

1. Chapter 7 walks through what the early church actually looked like. What surprised you most? How does it compare to the image of "the early church" you've carried in your head?
2. Chapter 8 argues that "family of God" is not just a metaphor but a description of how the church is meant to function. After reading that chapter, does the word "family" land differently when you think about your church?
3. Chapter 9 explores the idea that God counts differently, that faithfulness is the metric, not size. Is it hard for you to believe that? What makes it hard?

Discussion Questions (continued)

In Your Life

1. Which of the biblical images for small things — the mustard seed, the lost sheep, the widow's mite, the little flock — means the most to you right now? Why?
2. If you could sit in Priscilla and Aquila's living room church for one gathering, what do you think you'd recognize from your own church experience? What would feel different?
3. Chapter 9 says that some of the seeds your church plants will bear fruit you'll never see. Is that encouraging or frustrating? How do you hold on to faithfulness when you can't see the results?
4. Has this section of the book changed the way you read the New Testament? Is there a passage or a letter that sounds different now that you picture it being read in a living room?

This Week's Assignment (pick one)

- Read Philippians or Philemon in one sitting this week. As you read, picture it being read aloud in a living room of thirty people who know each other by name. Notice how that changes the way the letter sounds.
- Look up one of the house church references from Chapter 7 (Romans 16:3-5, Colossians 4:15, Philemon 1:2, Acts 12:12). Read the surrounding passage and sit with it. Journal about what you notice.
- This week at church, pay attention to a moment that feels like Acts 2: someone sharing, someone praying, someone giving, someone being glad and generous. Name it to yourself when you see it.

Session 4: The Mess And The Commitment

(Chapters 10-11)

Theme: The friction and the faithfulness.



Welcome

Welcome back. Fair warning: this week's conversation might get a little uncomfortable. We're talking about two things that go together more than we'd like to admit: the mess of community and the commitment to stay in it anyway. If the first three weeks were about seeing your church clearly and finding it in Scripture, this week is about the grit. The friction. The people who drive you crazy and the God who apparently thinks that's good for you. This is also the week where we talk about staying, what it costs and what it produces. Be honest with each other tonight. That's all we're asking.

Opening Prayer

Let's take a minute to pray together before we jump in. Here are some things to bring to God:

Be honest with God about something in your church life that frustrates you. He already knows. You're not telling Him anything new. Just say it out loud to Him.

Ask God to show you what He might be doing in you through the friction and the difficulty, not in spite of it.

Pray for the courage to stay planted. Ask God to help you see the difference between being stuck and being rooted.

Opening Question

Okay, we're going to ease into this one.

Without naming names: what is the most memorable potluck dish, good or bad, that has ever shown up at our church? And did the person who brought it bring it every single time?

Have volunteers read the following Scriptures:

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us." — 2 Corinthians 4:7

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." — Hebrews 10:24-25

Opening Questions (continued)

“Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.” — Proverbs 27:17

“He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.” — Psalm 1:3

Discussion Questions

In the Word

1. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 4:7 that we carry treasure in “jars of clay,” cracked, ordinary, fragile vessels. Why do you think God chose to put His treasure in cracked containers? What does that say about the kind of church He builds?
2. The writer of Hebrews says “let us consider how to stir up one another.” The word “stir” is not gentle. It implies provocation, even agitation. How is that different from just being nice to each other? What does it look like in your church when someone stirs you toward love in a way that’s uncomfortable but good?
3. Proverbs 27:17 says iron sharpens iron. Sharpening involves friction, heat, and contact. You can’t be sharpened from a distance. Who in your church has sharpened you? Was the process comfortable, or did it involve some grinding?
4. Psalm 1:3 describes a person “planted by streams of water.” The image is rootedness, staying in one place long enough to bear fruit. What’s the difference between being planted and being stuck? How do you tell which one you are?

In the Book

1. Chapter 10 says “the mess is the ministry.” Where have you seen that in your own experience? Is there a time when the mess actually produced something good?
2. Chapter 10 talks about the “ministry of irritation,” the idea that the person at church who irritates you most might be doing more for your sanctification than your favorite Bible study. Does that ring true? Is it hard to accept?
3. Chapter 11 talks about staying when it would be easier to leave. Have you ever seriously thought about leaving your church? What kept you?
4. Chapter 11 distinguishes between legitimate reasons to leave and consumer reasons. Is that distinction clear to you? Is it hard to apply honestly to your own life?

Discussion Questions (continued)

In Your Life

1. Be honest: is there someone at church who irritates you? You don't need to name them. But can you see how that friction might be doing something in you that comfort never could?
2. What has staying at your church cost you? What has it produced? If you made two lists, which one would be longer?
3. Chapter 11 describes a "theology of rootedness," the idea that God is a God of place who plants His people rather than moving them around. Does that vision of rootedness appeal to you, or does it make you restless?
4. If you decided today that you were never leaving your church, that this was your community for good, how would that change the way you showed up on Sunday? Would you invest differently? Engage differently? Love differently?

This Week's Assignment (pick one)

- Reach out to someone in the church you find difficult and do one kind thing for them. Not a grand gesture. A text. A plate of cookies. A genuine question about their week.
- Think about what staying has cost you. Write it down. Then think about what staying has produced. Write that down too. Compare the two lists.
- Pray specifically this week for someone at church whose friction with you has been formative, even if they don't know it. Thank God for what their presence in your life has produced.

Session 5: Being There And Being Known

(Chapters 12-13)

Theme: Showing up and being seen.



Welcome

Welcome back. We've talked about what we have, where the pressure comes from, what the Bible describes, and the mess of staying. Tonight we're going somewhere more personal. We're talking about what it means to be known. Not just recognized. Not just familiar. Known. Seen on your bad days. Loved without your mask on. This is the kind of conversation that can go deep quickly, so let's take care of each other tonight. Listen more than you talk. Don't try to fix what someone shares. And remember that what's said in this room stays in this room.

Opening Prayer

Let's pray before we begin. Take a moment with each of these:

Thank God for someone in your life, in this church, who knows the real you and hasn't walked away. You don't have to say their name out loud. Just thank God for them.

Ask God to soften any walls you've built to keep people from seeing you too clearly. Ask Him to help you trust this community a little more tonight.

Pray for anyone in our church who might be carrying something heavy right now in silence. Ask God to open a door for them to be known and helped.

Opening Question

Here's a question to get us started:

How long did it take before you felt like people at this church actually knew you, not just your name, but you? Was there a specific moment when it shifted?

Have volunteers read the following Scriptures:

"And they sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great." — Job 2:13

"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear." — 1 John 4:18

"Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed." — James 5:16

Opening Questions (continued)

“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” — Galatians 6:2

Discussion Questions

In the Word

1. In Job 2:13, Job’s friends sit with him for seven days in silence. They don’t speak. They don’t advise. They just stay. What does their silence say about the ministry of presence? When has someone’s quiet presence meant more to you than their words?
2. First John 4:18 says perfect love casts out fear. Chapter 13 talks about the fear of being fully known. What are you afraid people will see if they really know you? What would it feel like if they saw it and loved you anyway?
3. James 5:16 says to confess your sins to each other. That verse assumes a community intimate enough for real confession — not public spectacle but genuine, trusting honesty. Does your church feel like a safe place for that kind of honesty? What makes a community safe enough for confession?
4. Galatians 6:2 says to bear one another’s burdens. You can’t carry a burden you don’t know about. What does this verse assume about the depth of relationship in a church? What kind of community makes burden-bearing possible?
5. Think about the difference between Job’s friends when they first arrived (sitting in silence) and later when they started talking (offering explanations and advice). When has someone shifted from being a comforting presence to being an unwelcome advisor in your life? What can your church learn from that?

In the Book

1. Chapter 12 tells stories of small churches meeting crises without programs, just people showing up. Can you think of a time your church responded to a crisis that way? What did it look like?
2. The chapter says the personal response of a small church is “slower and messier and also more human.” Do you agree? Is there a cost to the messiness, or is the messiness part of what makes it work?
3. Chapter 13 talks about the difference between visibility and being known. Visibility is the first year. Being known is year five, year ten. If you’ve been at your church for a while, what do the people around you know about you that you didn’t choose to reveal?
4. Chapter 13 says that being known is “one of the most powerful things a church can offer.” Do you agree? Or does it sometimes feel like too much?

Discussion Questions (continued)

In Your Life

1. When was the last time someone at church showed up for you without being asked? What did that feel like?
2. Is there someone in your church who you suspect is carrying something heavy but hasn't shared it? What would it look like to create space for them without forcing it?
3. Chapter 13 says the world offers the comfort of anonymity, but your small church offers something more costly and more valuable: being known and loved anyway. Which one are you more drawn to, honestly? What does that tell you?

This Week's Assignment (pick one)

- Show up for someone this week without being asked. Don't wait for a program or a prompt. Just go. A visit, a call, a meal, a text that says "I was thinking about you."
- Let yourself be known this week. Share something honest with someone at church that you'd normally keep to yourself. Not something dramatic. Just something real.
- Think about someone at your church who has been absent or quiet lately. Reach out. Not to check a box. Because you noticed.

Session 6: Strategically Small On Purpose

(Chapters 14-17)

Theme: Embracing the vision and opening the door.



Welcome

Welcome to our final session together. Over the past five weeks, we've looked at what our church already has, named the lies that tried to steal our gratitude, found our church in the pages of Scripture, sat in the mess, and talked about what it means to be truly known. Tonight we land the plane. We're going to talk about what it means to be strategically small on purpose, not as a consolation prize but as a calling. And we're going to talk about what comes next: not just for this group, but for our church. This is a commissioning night. So let's finish strong.

Opening Prayer

Let's pray together one last time as a group. Spend a moment with each of these:

Thank God for what He has done in you and in this group over the past six weeks. Be specific if you can.

Ask God to give you a vision for your church that isn't measured by size but by faithfulness, depth, and love. Ask Him to help you see what He sees when He looks at this community.

Pray for one person outside this church who needs what this community has. Ask God to give you the courage to open the door for them.

Opening Question

Last opening question of the series, so let's make it a good one:

If someone asked you to describe our church in one sentence, and you couldn't use the word "small," what would you say?

Have volunteers read the following Scriptures:

"Who dares despise the day of small things?" — Zechariah 4:10 (NIV)

"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."
— John 13:35

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house." — Matthew 5:14-15

Opening Questions (continued)

“While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.” — Acts 13:2-3

Discussion Questions

In the Word

1. Zechariah 4:10 asks, “Who dares despise the day of small things?” Have you despised the smallness of your church, even quietly, even in your own heart? What would it look like to stop?
2. Jesus says in John 13:35 that the world will know His disciples by their love. Not by their buildings, their budgets, or their attendance numbers. By their love. Where is that love most visible in your church? Where might a stranger see it if they walked in this Sunday?
3. Read Matthew 5:14-16. Jesus says you are the light of the world. Not “you could be” or “you will be when you’re bigger.” You are. Right now. At your current size. What does it mean to be a small light in a dark room? Is a small light enough?
4. In Acts 13:2-3, the church at Antioch sends away Barnabas and Saul, their best leaders, because the Holy Spirit said to. They sent them in worship and in prayer. What does it say about a church that it’s willing to give away its best for the sake of something it won’t directly benefit from? Could your church do that?
5. Think about the mustard seed parable (Mark 4:30-32). The seed doesn’t become a different kind of plant. It becomes the fullest version of what it already is. What would the fullest version of your church look like, not a different church, but the deepest, most faithful version of who you already are?

In the Book

1. In Chapter 14, the author tells the story of his own journey, from planting an attractional church to discovering that a small church wasn’t the consolation prize but the destination. Did his story change the way you think about your own church? How?
2. What does “strategically small” mean for your church specifically? If your church embraced that identity openly, what would change? What would stay the same?
3. Chapter 15 casts a vision for growth by multiplication, sending people out rather than accumulating more. Is that exciting to you, or does it feel scary? What would it cost your church to send?
4. Chapter 16 says that in a world starving for connection, your small church is not behind the times but the answer to the times. Do you believe that? What makes it hard to believe? What makes it ring true?

Discussion Questions (continued)

In Your Life

1. After reading the Closing, go around the group and finish this sentence: "When I look at our church now, I see..."
2. Is there someone in your community, a neighbor, a coworker, a friend, who might need what your church has but doesn't know where to find it? What's keeping you from inviting them?
3. What's one thing you want to do differently at church after reading this book? Not a program. Not a plan. Just one thing in the way you show up, the way you see the people around you, the way you love your community.
4. The book ends with a benediction: "Go in peace. Go home. Your church is waiting for you." What does that send-off mean to you after this six-week journey together?
5. Close by reading Numbers 6:24-26 aloud together as a group:

"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace."

Sit with it for a moment. Then pray for each other and for your church.

This Week's Assignment (pick one)

- As a group, identify one person or family outside your church who might need what your community has. Pray for them by name. Then invite them.
- Write a letter to your church. Not a letter you send. A letter you keep. Tell your church what it means to you, what it's done for you, and what you see when you look around the room on Sunday morning.
- Invite someone. One person. The neighbor, the coworker, the friend who's mentioned they're lonely. Don't make it complicated. Just say, "Come with me this Sunday. You'll be welcome."

