

# Small Group Study Guide

A Fitness to Commitment |

John 17:1-7

From Sunday June 28, 2020

## Appetizer:

**Question:** Does it seem like people are more willing to have opinions about things than to be committed to things? Can you think of some examples?

**Have someone read Luke 9:57-62**

**What stands out to you?**

**Question:** Out of the three interactions Jesus had with people (The Son of Man Has no place to lay his head, let the dead bury their own dead, don't turn back from the plow), was Jesus being mean and hard-hearted? What was he saying about the price of discipleship in each of his answers?

## Main Course:

When Jesus talked about not turning back to say goodbye to parents but "keeping your hand on the plow" his listeners would most likely have instantly thought of the story of Elijah and Elisha, where Elijah called Elisha to follow him, but allowed Elisha to say goodbye to his parents first. You can read about it in 1 Kings 19:19-21.

**Question:** Why do you think this is an important parallel? And what does it tell us about being committed to Jesus?

In Luke 9, Jesus suggests that "being all in" is what Christian discipleship is all about. Theologian, Dallas Willard has often reflected on Christian discipleship and he has made the observation that the church has been happy enough to make converts, but has been weak in making disciples.

**Question:** Is this a fair critique? What is the main difference between conversion and discipleship? Why would the church of North America over the last few decades have focused more on conversion than discipleship? And perhaps the most challenging question of all: What does a disciple of Jesus look like in contrast to a convert?

The three points of this week's sermon talks about what Christian commitment is:

### 1. It is the driver of Christian Faith.

**Question:** If it is the driver, what happens to the kingdom of God when there is no commitment to the faith? What does an uncommitted Christian community look like?

### 2. It is entrusting God with your time and effort.

**Question:** People often give up on commitments because they can no longer see the value or benefit in the commitment. How do we continue to trust God with our time and effort during tough times of either doubt or hurts or boredom?

### 3. Commitment is the evidence of being ready for kingdom work.

**Question:** This is a bold statement. It suggests that when we don't see commitment in a follower of Jesus, they are not ready to be put into service. Is the church too quick to put people into positions of responsibility? Or is there a way that we can help turn uncommitted people into committed people by giving them responsibility? Where is the balance here? Should we be raising the bar? Or is it worth the risk? Is there a level of "Fitness for Commitment"?

## Dessert:

**Take a moment to think of something that you want to commit to when it comes to your relationship with God. It could be about spiritual disciplines or attitudes, or about connecting with people in a particular way. Once you have determined the commitment, follow through with the anatomy of a commitment:**

1. Publicly express your intention.
2. Set a start date and an end date.
3. Now set off to do what you intend to do!