



starting
point

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**LEADER WEEKLY
RESOURCES**



SESSION EIGHT: INVITATION

CHAPTER SUMMARY

WEEKLY WIN

Participants understand that God designed them with a purpose for a purpose.

BOTTOM LINES

- Your uniqueness finds its fullest and best expression when connected to God's divine purpose in the world.
- The church began as a growing gathering of men and women who believed Jesus was the Son of God.
- We have the opportunity to do for others what others did for us by joining our generation's Jesus gathering.

BEFORE THE MEETING

PRAY

Pray for each group member to finish well. Pray that this will be a *starting point* God will use as a new chapter in their lives.

LEADER DEBRIEF

Address the following:

- Evaluate the previous meeting with your co-leaders soon after it's over.
- Decide who will be facilitating each part of the discussion.
- Determine if you want to do anything special for your last group meeting as a way to celebrate your time together. Feel the freedom to be creative.
- Review the Ending Well section during the Wrap-Up for this week and decide together how you want to end well.

CONTACT GROUP MEMBERS

Engage in conversations with your group members individually by email, phone, or text. Acknowledge the growth you've seen. Talk about next steps after Starting Point. If you're not sure what options are available, talk with church staff.

You can use the email template provided for Session Eight at spladers.com.

SCHEDULE SOCIAL GATHERING

Schedule a date for a social gathering. It will be a time of encouragement for your group members and a recap of the Starting Point experience.

DISCUSS SECTION ONE: NEW PURPOSE

SECTION WIN

Participants understand that Christians believe meaning in life is found by discovering and embracing the role God has for us.

LEADING THE DISCUSSION

Question 1: Many participants were driven to Starting Point by circumstances that ignited or reignited a desire for meaning. Having heard their stories by this point, you may be able to draw from past discussions.

Question 2: Some participants don't see themselves as having much to offer. Encourage them by sharing your observations. Others may associate God's gifts solely with preaching and teaching. Help broaden their understanding. Everyone has something to offer in the body of Christ.

Question 3: Some participants may be encouraged by this idea but may have a hard time accepting it's true. It may be helpful to share from your own experience.

DISCUSS SECTION TWO: EKKLESIA

SECTION WIN

Participants understand the original definition of the church: *an assembly of people with a unified confession.*

LEADING THE DISCUSSION

Question 1: This discussion gives you an opportunity to hear about any obstacles to faith bad church experiences have created. Affirm those experiences, express empathy, and encourage group members to move forward.

Question 2: This discussion allows participants to compare their church experiences to Jesus' original definition.

Question 3: This question allows you to hear where the group is regarding their relationship with Jesus. If the group dynamic is safe enough, consider this follow-up question: "What would Jesus have to do to convince you that he is the Son of God?"

DISCUSS SECTION THREE: YOUR NEXT STEP

SECTION WIN

Participants reflect on what these eight weeks have meant to them and talk about specific next steps.

LEADING THE DISCUSSION

Question 1: Affirm and suggest some possible options. Since God knows these people best, we encourage you to spend time praying for each group member in preparation for this discussion. Ask him to guide you in this process.

Question 2: Be careful not to make this question about your skill and ability as a facilitator. All you can do is create an environment that is conducive to God doing what only he can do—create life change.

Question 3: Use this final discussion to encourage community as a vital part of continuing spiritual growth. Be prepared to help them get connected to a new group or to take an appropriate next step.

WRAP-UP

REVIEW THE BOTTOM LINES

- Your uniqueness finds its fullest and best expression when connected to God’s divine purpose in the world.
- The church began as a growing gathering of men and women who believed Jesus was the Son of God.
- We have the opportunity to do for others what others did for us by joining our generation’s Jesus gathering.

ENDING WELL

Thank group members for coming and for sharing. Here are some ideas for ending your group well:

- Using the Story Cards, ask your group to share about one of the following:
 - “Pick a card that represents what the past eight weeks have meant to you.”
 - “Pick a card that represents your relationship with God.”
- Ask your group to share any “aha” moments from Starting Point.
- Review the questions your group members wrote down in Chapter 1 in response to Question 2 of Section Three: “What one question do you hope to have answered by the end of our eight weeks together?” Ask if they feel like their questions were answered, or if their questions changed during the eight weeks. (Since these questions were anonymous, don’t specifically address anyone in the group.)
- Ask your group members what they plan to do now that Starting Point is over. Accountability helps people determine their next steps and then take them.

Due to time constraints, you may want to save these conversations for your last social.

SOCIAL

If you haven’t already done so, set a date for your last social gathering. Cover any details related to it—location, food, time, and date. This will be a time of celebration and remembering your Starting Point experience.

PRAYER

This is a great time to thank God for bringing your group together. You may want to see if other people want to pray.