

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

SUMMARY

In this sermon from the "On the Way with Jesus" series, we explored what it truly means to follow Jesus. The message challenged us to move beyond "yes... but" faith—where we agree with Jesus in principle but set conditions on our obedience. Through Luke 9:51-62, we saw Jesus resolutely set his face toward Jerusalem and the cross, teaching his disciples along the way. His call to discipleship does two things: it reshapes our understanding of mercy (as seen when James and John wanted to call down fire on the Samaritans) and reorders our priorities (through three encounters with would-be followers). Jesus doesn't want fans or partial allegiance—He calls us to deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow Him wholeheartedly.

SHARE

Think of a time when someone asked you to do something and your immediate response was "Yes... but." What was the situation, and what was your "but"?

READ

Let's read our core passage together out loud as a group: **Luke 9:51-62**.

DISCUSS

Feel free to pick/choose what is most helpful for you. Remember, the goal is to have rich, relational, authentic, Jesus-centered discussions.

1. What stood out to you the most about the sermon?

2. In Luke 9:51, we read that Jesus "resolutely set out for Jerusalem"—literally, "he set his face like flint" (echoing Isaiah 50:7). What does this phrase reveal about Jesus' character and mission? How does understanding that Jesus knew suffering awaited Him yet still moved forward with determination shape our understanding of what it cost Him to save us?

3. When James and John wanted to call down fire on the Samaritan village (Luke 9:54), Jesus rebuked them. Pastor Jeremy emphasized that Jesus' journey to Jerusalem wasn't to destroy

God's enemies but to die for them. How does this reshape our understanding of mercy? Where in your life—whether in relationships, politics, or online interactions—do you find it hardest to show mercy instead of retaliation?

4. The sermon walked through three people who responded to Jesus with "yes… but": one wanted comfort, one wanted convenience, and one kept looking back. Which of these three resonates most with your own spiritual journey right now? Why?

5. Look again at Luke 9:57-58. Jesus tells the first man, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." What is Jesus communicating about the nature of discipleship in this statement? How does this challenge our cultural expectations of what following Jesus should look like?

6. Pastor Jeremy asked us to reflect: "Where is Jesus asking you to trust him – even though it feels scary? Where is he asking you to let go – even though it feels uncomfortable?" Take a moment to share with the group one area where Jesus might be inviting you to move from admiration to obedience.

7. Jesus doesn't settle for partial allegiance or second place in our lives. He calls us to deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow Him (Luke 9:23). What does "taking up your cross daily" look like practically in your everyday life—at home, at work, in your relationships, or in your community here in the GTA?

NEXT STEPS:

Choose one area where you've been saying "yes… but" to Jesus. This week, commit to moving from conditional obedience to wholehearted "yes."

This might mean:

Forgiving someone who hurt you
Choosing kindness with a difficult person
Being generous when your instinct is to hold back
Serving others even when it's inconvenient
Sharing your faith instead of staying quiet
Trusting God with overwhelming circumstances instead of trying to control everything
Giving your life fully to Jesus
Write down your specific "yes" and share it with one trusted person in your group for accountability and prayer.

PRAY:

Take time to pray together as a group:

- **Confession:** Ask God to reveal where you've been holding back or setting conditions on your obedience.
- **Mercy:** Pray for the grace to show mercy to those who've hurt, rejected, or offended you—just as Jesus showed mercy to us.
- **Surrender:** Invite Jesus to take first place in every area of your life—your time, relationships, finances, comfort, and future.

- **Courage:** Ask for the strength to say “yes” to Jesus this week, even when it’s hard, uncomfortable, or costly.

Close by praying for one another’s specific “next steps” that were shared.

CONNECT:
Check out **The Hub** for upcoming community events, workshops, and serving opportunities where your group can live out the call to follow Jesus together. Whether it’s serving in Markham, Stouffville, or across the eastern GTA, look for ways to take up your cross as a community and show the mercy and love of Jesus to those around you.

CLOSING:
Following Jesus isn’t about adding Him to our lives—it’s about reordering our lives around Him. As we go this week, may we move from “yes… but” to wholehearted “yes,” trusting that the way of the cross leads to true life.