

# Southwest Life Groups

A Place to Belong...A Place to Transform

*Focus:* To explore how we need others to walk along with us, as we look at the life of Christ and how the disciples needed him.

## Case Study:

Sarah turned 36 the day she gave her life to Christ. She wasn't your typical Christian. She had never even been to a church until just over a year ago. She had met Rachel at work and knew immediately there was something about her life that was different than her own. She wanted what Rachel seemed to have...honesty, love, joy, peace, and most of all, a realness that she had never seen. Rachel invited Sarah to her church and thus two friendships began...one with Rachel and one with God.

It was a sad day this past August when she learned that her only friend at church was moving away. She never really felt comfortable at church with anyone else, so her loss at Thanksgiving was made all that more difficult. It was Sarah's aunt on the phone. Her father had suddenly passed away. The one person who loved her through the divorce, the one person who was always there for her and her kids, the one person she could rely on was gone...and so was her friend Rachel.

The funeral came and went, as did Christmas. Other than a few phone calls from family, Sarah was left in a house all alone that seemed to grow smaller and smaller each day. Where was God? Where was the church? Where was someone to walk with? The questions grew louder and the silence seemed overwhelming.

- Describe the way you believe Sarah feels right now.
- Express your thoughts about this church family Sarah was a part of.
- Debate what mistakes Rachel made in her leaving Sarah.
- What do you believe the end result of this story to be for Sarah?

**Text:** Each of us needs people to walk with us in this journey. We each need friends that will love us, tell us the truth, and shepherd us as we go. We need these people in the hard times but we also need them in the good times. We need people to accompany us! That is exactly what Jesus did for his disciples.

- Discuss why Jesus chose the twelve? Why not spend all your time with the crowds?
- If Jesus had called the apostles to this incredible journey and then simply left them alone, describe what you believe the end result is?

Let's look at some texts where Jesus was there with them... (Notice that I did not chose any sections where miracles took place...but only everyday moments!) Choose a few of these and talk through what the disciples gained by simply being there with Him or what it might have been like if He hadn't been there.

1. The Parable of the Sower...Mark 4:1-20
2. Jesus Sends Out the Twelve...Mark 6:7-13
3. Who is the Greatest...Mark 9:33-37
4. The Rich Young Man...Mark 10:17-31
5. Jesus Clears the Temple...Mark 11:15-19
6. The Widow's Offering...Mark 12:41-44

### **Application:**

- Have you ever felt like Sarah?
- Who is your mentor and what would your life be like without them?
- Who do you walk along beside and how would their life be different without you?
- Critique our group...are we providing this for people both inside and outside of our group?
- What is it God is saying to you tonight?

### **Prayer Time**