

## WEEK 2 TOUGH PARABLES DISCUSSION GUIDE

This guide is a suggestion; Adjust as needed to fit your group. Don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.

### THE MAIN POINT

We are called to share the message of Jesus with everyone.

### THE MAIN SCRIPTURE

Matthew 13:47-51

### GET THEM TALKING

- How well did you share as a kid?
- Who can share a funny story about either sharing well or NOT sharing something well as a kid?

### READ Matthew 13:47-51 and answer the following questions:

#### 1. We are called to share the message of Jesus.

- What's your initial reaction to this parable?
- What do you find most challenging or unclear about this parable?
- Think about when you became a follower of Jesus. Were you raised in a Christian family? Did someone tell you about Jesus at school? Did you see a follower of Christ who truly lived out what he or she believed? Tell us your story.
- When you realize not everyone will accept the message of Jesus, does that make you less motivated to even bother sharing that message at all? Why or why not?

#### 2. Jesus' net catches all kinds of fish.

- Have you ever gone fishing? If so, tell us what that experience was like.
- How is a fishing net different from the way most people fish when they talk about "going fishing"?
- Do you think this parable means there are many "fish" in our churches who won't spend eternity in heaven? Why or why not?
- Read John 14:6. Why doesn't God allow everyone to enter heaven? Why is faith in Jesus the only way to spend eternity with God?

#### 3. We are not called to decide who's in and who's out.

- What are the dangers of us—or anyone else—playing the role of saying who is a "good fish" and who is a "bad fish"?
- How can people who follow Jesus become judgmental? Shouldn't that be impossible? Tell me what you think.

### NEXT STEPS

How can we share Jesus' message with others? Let first practice together. Have everyone pair up and give them 2 minutes to share with their partner about Jesus. Then switch. Afterwards, debrief and ask everyone how it went. Then everyone come up with one tangible step they want to take this week to share Jesus' message (maybe pick 3 more people you know to practice sharing Jesus' message, or invite someone who doesn't know Jesus to church with you, or share Jesus' message with someone who doesn't know it).

### PRAYER GUIDE

We'll close our time tonight by praying for God to help prepare us to share His message with others. Ask your students to share any prayer requests, and close together in prayer.