

## **Becoming like Jesus together** (Based on Chapter 22 of *Costly Grace*)

### **The Big Idea**

In order to grow to spiritual maturity, we must be involved in Christian community.

### **Biblical Foundation**

*Jesus called his twelve disciples together and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James and his brother John, the sons of Zebedee; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew, the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Patriot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus.*  
Matthew 10:1-4 (TEV)

The disciples of Jesus have one thing in common: Jesus. Bonhoeffer notes, “No power in the world could have united these men for a common task, save the call of Jesus. But that call transcended all their previous divisions, and established a new and steadfast fellowship in Jesus.”

It is Jesus who calls people of all different races, nationalities, and backgrounds together to form the church, prompting you to open your home for the night to a stranger who simply comes in the name of Christ.

Discuss this statement: When we answer the call of Christ, we cease to be strangers to all others who have answered his call.

Jesus creates the church through the real and supernatural connection between himself and every believer. The church, then, is a group of believers, all energized by the divine nature of Christ, working together to do what the Spirit tells them. How does this change the way you look at Christian community?

To believe Jesus now doesn't require the disciples take a leap of faith. They know who Jesus is; they've seen what he can do; they know he will not lie or make a false promise to them. If Jesus says they have this authority, then they can believe it is true.

This is true for you too. What does this tell you about our intimacy with Jesus? Does it change your point-of-view? How might it suggest that intimacy is not an option in our relationship with Christ?