



LEADER'S NOTES

Week 3: You Are Never Alone

Purpose of This Session

The goal of this week's group is to help people internalize the truth that following Jesus means we are never alone. Jesus promises His presence, forms us in community, warns us of a real enemy, and protects us through the Holy Spirit and the church.

This discussion may surface areas of isolation, discouragement, spiritual struggle, or relational withdrawal. Your role as a leader is not to fix people—but to create a safe space where honesty is welcomed and Jesus is lifted up.

How to Use This Guide

1. Begin in prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide the conversation and guard hearts.
2. Briefly summarize the sermon's big idea: Following Jesus always includes His presence and His people.
3. Use the Sermon Reflection Questions to open hearts.
4. Move through the four Discussion Questions at a healthy pace.
5. Leave time for application and prayer.

Do not feel pressure to cover every question. Depth is more important than completion.

Leader Posture

- Model vulnerability without oversharing.
- Allow silence—don't rush to fill it.
- Gently redirect if the conversation becomes overly theological or argumentative.
- Keep pointing people back to Jesus, not self-effort.

If someone shares something heavy, thank them for trusting the group. Avoid quick fixes.

QUESTION 1 - JESUS PROMISES HIS FOLLOWERS ARE NOT ALONE

Focus: Assurance of Christ's presence.

Listen for:

- Feelings of abandonment or spiritual dryness
- Confusion between feelings and truth
- Stories of sensing God's nearness

Encourage the group to distinguish between feeling alone and being alone. Reinforce Matthew 28:20—Jesus' promise is not dependent on our emotions.

Helpful prompt:

"What makes it hard to believe Jesus is with you when life feels overwhelming?"

QUESTION 2 - JESUS SHAPES HIS FOLLOWERS IN COMMUNITY, NOT IN ISOLATION

Focus: Spiritual formation through relationships.

Listen for:

- Patterns of independence or busyness
- Hesitation to trust others
- Positive examples of growth in community

Reinforce that community is not a church program—it is Jesus' design. Formation ("I will make you") happens in proximity to Christ and others.

Helpful prompt:

"What usually pulls you toward isolation when life gets busy or difficult?"

Gently challenge self-reliance without shaming.

QUESTION 3 - FOLLOWING JESUS WAS NEVER INTENDED TO BE DONE ALONE BECAUSE WE FACE A REAL ENEMY

Focus: Spiritual awareness, not fear.

Listen for:

- Discouragement, temptation, or distraction
- Misunderstandings about spiritual warfare
- Fear-based responses

Keep the tone calm and grounded. Emphasize that Satan is not equal to God, but he is strategic and often works subtly through isolation.

Helpful prompt:

“Where do you see isolation creating vulnerability in your own life?”

If fear surfaces, remind the group: the goal is awareness and connection, not anxiety.

QUESTION 4 - THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE CHURCH PROVIDE PROTECTION

Focus: God’s provision through Spirit and community.

Listen for:

- Experiences of conviction or guidance
- Gratitude for spiritual friendships
- Resistance to being known

Reinforce this key truth:

“The Spirit works within us, and the church walks with us.”

Help members see that protection is relational. Warnings—whether internal or external—are acts of love.

Helpful prompt:

“Who has God used to help protect or guide you in a difficult season?”

GUIDING THE APPLICATION SECTION

Encourage one small, concrete next step.

- Examples:
 - Reaching out to someone for prayer
 - Being honest about a struggle
 - Re-engaging in consistent group attendance
 - Seeking or becoming a mentor
- You might say:
 - “Connection doesn’t start with fixing everything. It starts with one honest step.”

Leading the Prayer Time

- Invite, don’t pressure, prayer requests.
- Allow silence.
- If appropriate, invite members to pray for one another.
- Pray for protection, courage, and deeper connection.
- Suggested emphasis:
 - Gratitude for Jesus’ presence
 - Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit
 - Strength through community
 - Protection from isolation and spiritual drift

Final Encouragement for Leaders

Remember: your faithfulness in showing up, listening, and loving is one of the ways God ensures His people are not alone.

Following Jesus means we are never alone—His Spirit is within us, and His people walk with us.