

Unstuck

Unimaginable

Leader Check-in

Tell about a time you were literally stuck. What did you do? How did you feel?

What do you hope will happen in your heart and life through your study of *Unstuck*?

Discover

What was the last injustice or tragedy that really stuck with you? Why do you think that is?

Do you think it's right to be upset or yell at God when bad things happen to us? Why do you say that?

What is the connection between injustice in the world and sin? As a group can you come up with two verses that support your answer?

Read James 1:2-4. Why do the Scriptures encourage believers to rejoice when they face trials?

Fully Own

There are a lot of clichés that Christians use to comfort others in their loss and in tragic situations. Name some of the clichés you have heard when you've experienced loss and tragedy. Were they helpful? Why or why not?

Read Romans 8:28. Take a moment to consider the pain in your own life. How has God used difficult circumstances to mature and grow you? Do you think that could have happened any other way? Explain.

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5. Why is the Apostle Paul recognizing the churches in Macedonia? Do you know anyone who, although they may not have much material wealth, "overflow in a wealth of generosity?" Share about them.

Challenge

Spend a few moments this week and write a note or letter to someone you know who is in a season of suffering. What do they need to hear? What encouragement, hope and support can you offer? Try to get beyond clichés and consider what is truly helpful.

Unstuck

Unsafe

Leader Check-in

Did you write a letter or text to someone in a season of suffering last week? If so, what was their name? Spend a few moments as a group praying for that person.

Discover

Name a food that you always find really tempting. What is it that attracts you to it? Do you ever succeed in saying no to it?

Read James 1:13. Is God the one who tempts us? Why do you think so many people struggle with blaming God when they are tempted?

Reflect on this quote: “The Bible isn’t a textbook, it isn’t a rulebook filled with punitive decrees, nor is it a collection of benign morality tales. This is a love story.” What does the “love story” of the Bible have to do with temptation?

Take a few moments with 2-3 from your group and think about a biblical story where someone was tempted and did not give into temptation. What steps did they take to avoid the temptation? Share with the group.

Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. How can Christian community help us deal with temptation whenever we face it?

Fully Own

At this time split your group into men and women, having men go to one area and women to another. Explain that you will spend the rest of the group time in these smaller groups to allow for richer and deeper conversations.

If you watched the video today Pastor Mark Batterson talked about three ways for us to avoid sin when tempted with it: 1) Run from it 2) Read the Word 3) Get in Christian Community. Which of these do you struggle with the most? Why? What steps can you take to better yourself in this area?

We all have addictions and that keep us from being all we want to be. What are some temptations that you battle on a regular basis? How can the men or women around you pray for you and encourage you? Take time to pray with your group.

Challenge

Memorize 1 Corinthians 10:13 and send an encouraging text or phone call to the men or women you prayed with.

Unstuck

Unwanted

Leader Check-in

How easy (or difficult) was it for you to memorize 1 Corinthians 10:13? What do you think the value is in memorizing Scripture?

Discover

What is the best thing you have ever gotten at a yard sale or thrift shop? Where is it now? Have you put it to good use? How?

Take a few moments as a group and find as many stories of rejection as you can in the Bible (feel free to use the internet). How did the characters respond? What was the outcome?

Read Psalm 27:10; 1 John 3:1; Romans 8:38-39; and Ephesians 3:18-19. Using these four verses, as a Life Group write out in a sentence or two a summary of what God is saying through these verses.

Fully Own

Tell about a time you felt like an outcast or rejected. How did you respond? Why do you think it is so important for people to feel wanted, welcomed and accepted?

If you were able to watch the video, Mark Batterson talks about three stages from rejection to restoration: 1) Feeling unloved 2) Aware of God's love and 3) Showing God's love to others. Where do you think you are right now? Why?

Take a moment, as a group or individually, and write down a list of some ways you can practically show people they are wanted, welcomed, and accepted.

Challenge

Do you know someone who is feeling unloved right now? Ask God to show you someone in your life who needs to feel love and encouraged. Using the list you made as a reference, do something practical this week to show them God's love.

Unstuck

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Leader Check-in

Did you do something tangible or practical for someone you know that is feeling unloved this past week? If so, what was it?

Discover

Do you know anyone who is ‘turned off’ by Christianity? Why do you think that is?

Mark Batterson said, “Christianity was never meant to be a noun. It was meant to be a verb.” What did he mean by this? Do you agree? Why?

Read **James 1:27**. How does Jesus define “pure and faultless” religion?

Read **James 1:22-25**. After reading those verses, what would you say is at the core of the Christian faith?

Fully Own

As a group make a list of ways you all can move from nouns to verbs - from saying to doing.

Read **Matthew 14:22-29**. Jesus called Peter out of the safety of the boat. What is it that Jesus might be calling you to? Take a few moments as a group and ask God to open your heart and the hearts of those in your group to what Jesus might be calling you all to.

Take a few minutes to complete the Marks of Ownership Assessment (located at the end of this guide). Where do you think you are thriving in owning the mission of Central? Where are you “stuck?” Write down a next step you can take to get “unstuck.”

Challenge

According to Mark Batterson every year 15 million children die of starvation. What would it look like if everyone in your group decided to help sponsor a child? Talk to your group about supporting a child through World Vision or Compassion International as a life group. For more information, you can visit: www.compassion.com or www.worldvision.org

LIFE GROUPS

Marked for Life - Self Assessment and Plan

Marks of Owning Your Faith and the Mission of Central

Passionately Pursuing Jesus

	Does not apply at all		Applies somewhat		Applies completely	
I have a personal relationship with Jesus and am actively pursuing a life of serving Him.	0	1	2	3	4	5
I have been baptized as a believer in Jesus Christ.	0					5
People look to me as a model for what it means to follow Jesus.	0	1	2	3	4	5
I read God's Word daily and pray frequently each day.	0	1	2	3	4	5
All that I am and have is completely surrendered to the will of God.	0	1	2	3	4	5

Found People Find People

	Does not apply at all		Applies somewhat		Applies completely	
I frequently have conversations about my faith with people outside of the church.	0	1	2	3	4	5
I know my neighbors personally, and significant things about them.	0	1	2	3	4	5
I pray daily for specific people to come to know Jesus.	0	1	2	3	4	5
I am confident in engaging people in conversations about God.	0	1	2	3	4	5
I serve my neighbors when I discover they have a need.	0	1	2	3	4	5

Made for More

		Does not apply at all		Applies somewhat		Applies completely
I know my spiritual gifts and am using them in service to God.	0	1	2	3	4	5
I serve weekly at my church.	0	1	2	3	4	5
I spend a good deal of time serving and helping others in my community.	0	1	2	3	4	5
I get great satisfaction out of my current serving opportunity.	0	1	2	3	4	5
Others recognize and affirm how I use my spiritual gifts.	0	1	2	3	4	5

Life is Better Together

		Does not apply at all		Applies somewhat		Applies completely
I pray regularly for people who are in my circle of friends.	0	1	2	3	4	5
I have at least two people that I could call at any time if I was in need.	0	1	2	3	4	5
I meet weekly with a group of people who help me grow spiritually.	0	1	2	3	4	5
I am being personally discipled and I am discipling others.	0	1	2	3	4	5
I allow other people to hold me accountable for my actions.	0	1	2	3	4	5

Gather to Grow

		Does not apply at all		Applies somewhat		Applies completely
I attend services at Central weekly.	0	1	2	3	4	5
When I am in a church service I am fully engaged.	0	1	2	3	4	5
I experience God in a powerful way in the services at Central.	0	1	2	3	4	5
I am consistently growing as a result of the Central worship services.	0	1	2	3	4	5
Weekly attendance at a Central worship service is a top priority.	0	1	2	3	4	5

Generosity Builds God's Kingdom

		Does not apply at all		Applies somewhat		Applies completely
I tithe 10% or more of my income to the work of God at Central.	0	1	2	3	4	5
My first priority in spending is to support God's work.	0	1	2	3	4	5
I frequently give money to special projects to help those in need.	0	1	2	3	4	5
I am known as a generous person when it comes to giving away money.	0	1	2	3	4	5
My spending habits do not prevent me from giving generously to God.	0	1	2	3	4	5

Personal Plan for Spiritual Growth

Instructions

Congratulations! Now that you have a sense of where you are growing and where you need to grow, it's time look ahead at where you want to go in the coming year.

Celebrate Where You are Growing

What are the two Marks of Ownership where you had the highest score? Summarize your thoughts on why you think you are growing most in these areas?

1. _____

2. _____

Focusing on Your Growth Areas

What are the two Marks of Ownership where you had the lowest score? Summarize your thoughts on why you think you this is not an area of strength for you.

1. _____

2. _____

My Personal Plan

Moving Forward

Today's Date: _____

Over the next 12 months, I _____ with the help of God and my community, plan to grow in the area of: (list the Marks of Ownership below.)

1. _____ 2. _____

My Specific Action Steps

List the steps you will take that will move you forward in your goal.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

The two people I am asking to pray for me and encourage me along the way:

1. _____
2. _____

My Prayer

Write a prayer of thanks for the work of God in your life and what you want him to do in the next year.
