

DON'T BE GROSS

DON'T BE GROSS SMALL GROUP STUDY

One of history's greatest mysteries is how a Galilean cult birthed in the Roman Empire, whose leader was rejected by his own people and crucified, would survive and even thrive in the face of violent, organized, state-funded resistance. Jesus predicted this would happen.

CONNECT

Have you ever asked your friends what other people say about you? If so, what did you learn? If not, what do you hope your friends say about you?

LEARN

You will watch a shortened version of a message from this series to set up your group discussion. Encourage your group members to watch the full message sometime this week to remind them of what you talked about.

APPLY

After giving your group members an opportunity to share what stood out from the video, discuss the following questions as a group:

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, where do you find yourself in terms of being engaged with a local church? What makes you say that?

Passive Consumer | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 | Engaged Participant

2. Have you thought (before today) about the reality that you are a steward of faith in this generation? Look at how you answered question 1. What does that say about how effectively you are stewarding this responsibility?
3. Our mission is to inspire people to follow Jesus by engaging people with the life and mission of their local church. Here are three ways you can participate in that mission:
 - **Look for “Come sit with me” opportunities.** Listen for the three “nots” and be ready to invite someone (not in church, not going well, not prepared for life circumstances).
 - » When was the last time you asked someone to come sit with you? What happened?
 - » Do you have any hesitation in asking someone to come sit with you? If so, what is it?



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- **Participate in a small group.**
 - » Pat yourself on the back; you can check this one off!
 - » If you have been in a group for a little while, is it time to consider leading one? Why or why not?
- **Volunteer.**
 - » If you are currently volunteering, talk about your experience doing so.
 - » If you don't currently volunteer, do you know what volunteer opportunities exist in your local church? What is an area where you could serve?

WRAP UP

Our Atlanta-area churches don't measure membership in the typical sense, but instead measure a person's engagement in four areas:

1. Participate in a Group | **Connect**
2. Serve on a Team | **Serve**
3. Support the Church Financially | **Give**
4. Invite Friends to Church | **Invite**

Are you fully engaged? If not, what's stopping you?

PRAY

Take some time to pray as a group. Thank God that you have the opportunity to be a part of the movement he started, and ask for wisdom on how to steward it well. Andy's prayer from this message could be a good starting place.

Heavenly Father, thank you, thank you, thank you for the freedom we have. I pray that we never ever take it for granted. I pray that you would give us the courage and the wisdom and know-how to expand—not our reputation, not our church brand—but your name all over the world. And we pray all of that in the matchless name of Jesus, our resurrected Savior. Amen.

