

GOD NEEDS YOU

Focus God is completely self-existent, self-sufficient and self-sustaining, yet He has chosen to partner with us and has decided to need us. However, we must decide to need Him too. In every area of our lives, we must step out in faith and allow God to use us. When God sent Jesus to reconcile the world back to Himself, He essentially did His part. Now we must do ours by deciding to partner with God on a daily basis.

Fun What are some of your favorite memories about Easter? Think of some of your favorite traditions or activities that you enjoy doing during Easter and share them with your group.

Review Key Scriptures: Acts 17:25; Genesis 2:19; 1 Samuel 17:8–10

- *God Doesn't Need Anything*
God doesn't need anything to exist or subsist, yet in His greatness He made us and then chose to work in us and through us. God desires to partner with us in every area of our lives. However, this takes faith on our part: faith in God being with us and faith in knowing when we step out He will be there with us.
- *God Decided to Need You*
God created man to be friends with Him. In the beginning, God made Adam to have fellowship with Him, but God also gave Adam responsibilities, one of those being to name all the animals. God could have easily named the animals Himself, but He didn't. He wanted to partner with Adam. God decided to need man and to partner with him.
- *Have You Decided to Need God?*
God has decided to partner with us, but we must step out in faith. Many times we pray for God to do things that He has given us both the ability and the responsibility to do. God is never going to do our part. Our part is never supernatural because that is God's responsibility; however, we must do our

part—the natural part. Our part always comes first. Then, we must trust that God will do His part. When God sent Jesus to reconcile the world to Himself, He essentially did His part. Now we must do ours by deciding to partner with God today.

Group Dynamics Idea One of the most powerful things your small group members can do for each other is to pray. Ask each member to take a minute and silently reflect on their life. Have each one think about needs, issues and concerns. If they're comfortable, have each member write down their names and prayer requests on a piece of paper or index card and put these requests in a bowl or hat. Have everyone draw a request and then take turns praying for each other. Each member can take the card with them and commit to praying for the need throughout the week.

Discuss

1. When you partner with somebody else to do a task, is it usually easier or harder for you? Why? How can doing a task with somebody else build and strengthen your relationship with them? Share with the group.
2. God decided to need us by partnering with us on earth. In what ways does this demonstrate how relational God is? Can you think of an example of when you partnered with God in your own life? If you're comfortable, share about this experience with the group.
3. When we partner with God, we must step out in faith. Why can it sometimes be difficult for us to step out in faith in a situation? Are there some areas of faith that come more easily for you when it comes to trusting God? If so, then share with the group.
4. What are some situations in your life where God asked you to do something, and you stepped out in faith and did it? What were the results? How does exercising your faith strengthen it even more for the next time God asks you to do something?
5. Is there an area of your life wherein you feel convicted that God wants you to partner with Him? What is that area and what is the first step of faith that you can take in order to partner with Him and His will for your life? Share with the group.

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- God doesn't need anything to exist—He is eternally self-existent.
- God decided to need us; however, we have to decide to need God.

- When we decide to need God and to partner with Him we must first do our part, which is natural, and then God will do His part, which is supernatural.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Jesus to die on my behalf. Thank You that He fulfilled Your will by partnering in Your redemptive plan for humanity. Please show me the areas of my life where You want me to partner with You. Please give me the faith to step out in action and do the things You are asking me to do. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip While it's important to keep consistency in your group, it can also be a lot of fun to pick a night to do something totally different. One week, rather than doing your group's normal activities, ask everyone to meet at a restaurant, a park or someplace else unique. Doing this will add energy and vibrancy to your group and can be great for building relationships!