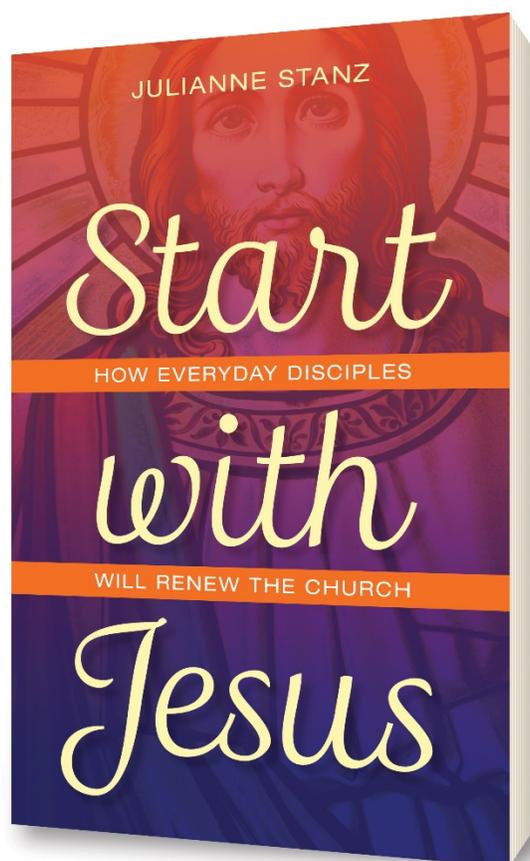


A Six-Week
**Discussion
Guide**



Week One: Introduction–Chapter 2

1. What is your parish's mission statement? Is your parish mission statement at the heart of all ministries in the parish? Why or why not?
2. If your parish is Jerusalem, how do you define your parish's Judea and Samaria? Once identified and agreed upon, discuss how you are currently serving in Judea and Samaria or how you can serve there in the future.
3. Are the ministries in your parish creating opportunities for individuals to encounter Jesus? If yes, how? What could be done to increase these opportunities?
4. On page 23, Julianne Stanz writes, "A faithful witness coupled with basic proclamation is the best catalyst for growth in the spiritual life." Take a moment and think about a witness story that has shaped your life or a story from your own life that can be a catalyst for others. Share with the group.
5. As a group, review the parish calendar for the next month. Discuss how each of the planned activities falls into one of these three categories:
 - Opportunities to share the kerygma
 - Few-to-no opportunities to share the kerygma
 - Possible opportunities to share the kerygma

What changes will you make as a result of this understanding?

Week Two: Chapters 3–4

1. Before reading chapter 3, how would you have defined the word *disciple*? Having read the chapter, how has this definition changed and/or stayed the same?
2. What would office hours in the parish look like if they fully reflected the mission of the parish?
3. Discuss what big changes can be made within the parish based on what you have read in this chapter. Which ones will receive priority?
4. Take a moment to think about your favorite prayer and why that is. Share with the group.
5. Stanz writes on page 42, “If Eucharist is the heart of parish life, then prayer is the heartbeat. Prayer is the food and fuel of missionary activity.” What are some ways that prayer is the heartbeat of the parish? In what ways is prayer being overlooked where it could be incorporated to fuel missionary activity?

Week Three: Chapters 5–6

1. What would or does a parish centered on the virtue of hope look like in your community?
2. What is the deepest point of pain in need of healing in your parish community? What is currently being done to provide healing? What can be done if healing is not currently being provided? How can the message of the gospel be brought into this pain?
3. Think about a time when you experienced true hospitality (or perhaps felt unwelcome) in your parish community. It could be your current community or a previous one. Share with the group.
4. On page 71, Stanz outlines several questions that can spur meaningful conversations of faith. What resources or ministries does your parish community provide to create a space for these questions to be asked and for the seeker to discover answers? If you cannot pinpoint an example, discuss what could be done to provide these opportunities.
5. While individual stories of faith make up your parish community, is there a single story that represents your parish? What are some of the elements of your parish's story of faith?

Week Four: Chapters 7–8

1. Stanz explains in chapter 7, “If we want to move from low or medium commitment to being on fire for our faith, then we must be bold, innovative, and creative, and take risks.” Share with the group your answers to these three questions: *What do we need to START doing? What do we need to KEEP doing? What do we need to STOP doing?*
2. On page 87, Stanz writes, “We must abandon the mindset that programs create disciples. A program serves as a help, a tool, and a springboard.” Does your parish maintain the mindset that programs create disciples or that programs serve as helps, tools, and springboards? If the former, how has this mindset hindered the parish?
3. If your parish has a “program creates disciples” mindset, what changes can be made to help begin the movement toward your parish recognizing programs as helpful tools?
4. Choose a ministry offered at your parish. Answer the questions: “What? How? Why?” in that order. Take moment to pause and flip the focus to answer the questions: “Why? What? How?” in that order.
5. Thinking about your answer to question 4, what changes do you recognize as you flip the question order? What do you think is the foundation of the differences in the answers?

Repeat the process of questions 4 and 5 with another ministry (or as many as time allows).

Week Five: Chapters 9–10

1. As you think about the insights you have gained so far, identify two or three people who might be open to a discipleship relationship with you. Turn to another person in your discussion group and share how you might enter such a relationship with the people you identified. Allow time for both sides of the discussion.
2. Consider the list of ten foundational attributes of a missionary parish. Which attributes do you recognize in your parish? Which do you think your parish lacks? What is the one attribute that you think could help your parish the most?
3. In what ways could your parish take on the attributes of a missionary parish that were identified as lacking in question 2?
4. Take time to think about what your parish community provides. What is your parish's plan for helping its committee members grow in faith? How can we, as members and leaders in our parish, accompany our parishioners on their journey?
5. Think again about your parish community and its ministries. How does your parish answer the missionary-oriented question, "How do we get all the people in here to go out there and reach others for Christ?"

Week Six: Chapters 11–12

1. What are some existing initiatives and events that no longer bear fruit in your parish?
Could the parish end or pause these initiatives and events? If they cannot be ended or paused, what could be done to refocus them, so they begin to bear fruit?
2. What are past initiatives or events that no longer exist but bore fruit and could be brought back? What are new initiatives or events that could be meaningful additions to your parish?
3. Creating missionary disciples begins with being a missionary disciple. Take some time to reflect on the question: *Do I have a plan for my own spiritual formation?* If yes, what is it? If not, where do you feel you could begin? Who will walk with you on this journey? How will you be held accountable for your spiritual growth?
4. Reflect on and share with the group how leaders in the ministries of your parish are prepared to share the gospel and do what Jesus did. How have you been prepared by the parish to share the gospel and do what Jesus did?
5. Discuss as a group how your parish community walks:
 - behind the people.
 - among the people.
 - ahead of the people.

What does it need to do more of? What does it need to do less of?