



RED LETTER CHALLENGE SMALL GROUP GUIDE LESSON 1

CONNECT

1. A 2014 study showed that individuals that wrote down their goals and committed to sharing updates and working towards them in a group achieved what they set out to do at an astounding 76% success rate. This is impressive when you consider those that did not were at a 43% success rate. Why do you think you see this level of improvement?
2. Have you ever committed to a goal or a challenge in a group setting? If so, what stood out to you as different from if you might have attempted to achieve this on your own?

Over the next few weeks, we are asking you to commit to the **Red** Letter Challenge in this group. As this journey begins, go over the Group Promise together. Make sure everyone understands the commitment you are making to one another.

GROUP PROMISE

I commit to these basic **Red** Letter Challenge Group promises. This is my 'ALL IN' pledge to live out Jesus' words, both in my own life and in helping my Group to do so.

- I will be on time and show up with my whole heart.
- I understand that this Group is 100% confidential. Whatever is shared in the Group stays in the Group.
- I respect other Group members by participating openly and speaking honestly, without dominating the discussions.
- I will not try to fix people, preach a sermon, or give unsolicited advice.
- When I share in the Group I will share primarily about myself and not about others.
- I will trust God to work in all of us as we live out the **Red** Letters of Jesus together!



RED LETTER CHALLENGE SMALL GROUP GUIDE LESSON 1 (cont.)

Watch *Red Letter Challenge Video for Week 1 - Introduction*

3. Describe a time in your life where you've missed the mark.

Read the story of *The Good Samaritan - Luke 10:25-37*

Both the priest and the Levite were trained up theologically the right way, but they missed the mark. When there was actually someone in need, they did completely the opposite of what God wanted them to do.

Part of the problem in the Christian faith is that we don't know what targets to shoot for and what it truly means to follow Jesus.

The *Red Letter Challenge* has identified 5 targets to shoot for:

- Being
 - Forgiving
 - Serving
 - Giving
 - Going
4. Take a look at the five targets that we'll be shooting for over these next few weeks. Thinking about your life right now, which one of these five will be the easiest for you? Which of the five weeks do you expect to stretch you the most or be the most difficult?

Take a moment to pray over the Challenge we are setting out on and the commitment we are all making to ourselves and to one another.



RED LETTER CHALLENGE

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

LESSON 1 (cont.)

5. What is the most inconvenient time your cell phone died?

Watch *Red Letter Challenge Video for Week 2 - Being*

Read *Daniel 6:7-10*

6. Even when facing the punishment of death, Daniel continued to practice being with God - praying three times a day and following closely after God with diet, service, and leadership. What methods or disciplines do you have for following God?
7. Daniel did all this while living in exile in a foreign land without a church building or any organized religion. Do you think it is possible to love people the way Jesus did if we aren't spending time in the presence of God? In what ways can we be in the presence of God?

The Challenges for the Week of Being focus on several spiritual disciplines...

- Bible Reading
- Prayer
- Worship
- Solitude/Rest
- Fasting
- Celebrating God with others
- Sabbath

8. What do these disciplines look like in your life right now?
9. Which of these comes easiest to you? Why?
10. Which of these do you struggle with the most? Why?



RED LETTER CHALLENGE SMALL GROUP GUIDE LESSON 1 (cont.)

Rank yourself on a scale of 1-10 (1 is very poor and 10 is excellent) on how disciplined you are currently in your relationship with God. If comfortable, share that number with the group.

CLOSING THOUGHT AND PRAYER

'If a man wants to be used by God, he cannot spend all of his time with people.'

- A.W. Tozer

11. What stands out to you about that quote? How can this motivate us in the concept of 'Being'

- Pray for your group as you embark on this Red Letter Challenge over the next 40 days.
- Pray for the Lord to draw each of you near to Him this week.
- Pray for your group to recharge with God, celebrate him, and find rest in Him.