

WELCOME TO The Lab.

Over the next eight weeks we will be experimenting with The Way of Jesus. Jesus' life changed the world. His Way encouraged unity in a divided world. His Way gave freedom in a society of oppression. His Way showed grace in a culture of condemnation.

Jesus' Way was a set of behaviors informed by a set of beliefs and enhanced by a sense of belonging. In the early days of The Church, Jesus' followers didn't use the word "Christianity" for what the movement they were a part of. Instead, they searched for a term to adequately describe what this way of behaving, believing, and belonging until finally just calling it The Way.

This won't just be a class about information. This will be an experiment about formation. Here are some ways you can make the most out of this experience together:

YOU CAN FAIL

Not every experiment we attempt will work for you. Some may be easy. Some may be hard. Some may be impossible. It's okay as long as you are honest (which brings us to the next point).

YOU CAN BE HONEST

You can be honest if you liked something or didn't. You can be honest if something made sense or if something didn't make sense. Don't try to act like you've got it all together. None of us do. The Way of Jesus requires vulnerability.

ASK THE QUESTIONS

If you have questions about The Way of Jesus, don't hesitate to ask them. We never learn if we don't ask. Even the uncomfortable questions need to be asked, so don't hesitate to find someone and ask them the things The Lab may not answer.

YOU NEED PEOPLE

Jesus didn't do life alone. He gathered his disciples around him. Don't try to do this alone. Get into a group. In a group, you can have conversation with other people about what you're experiencing as you go through the lab together.

GET A GROWTH PARTNER

Jesus didn't just have the 12 disciples, but he had Peter, James, and John who he had deeper relationship with and more candid conversations. In the same way, find two or three people from your group with whom you can interact with at a deeper level. These are your growth partners.

MAKE THE COMMITMENT

Eight weeks is a long commitment in our culture. But, this experiment really won't work without a real commitment to it. Commit to your group and commit to the entire Lab experience. You'll get out what you put in.

The Lab is a evolving experiment. At the end of your time, we'll ask you to complete a short survey to let us know how it can be improved upon as well as your thoughts on what was most impacting. We appreciate your feedback because we want this to be the best experience for as many people as possible.

Here's to learning and growing and being challenged over the next eight weeks!