

# CONNECT GROUP TEACHING / DISCUSSION NOTES

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## Series - **GET INTO THE GAME**

### Pt 2 - **THE DRAFT**



**God picks each of us to be part of what He is up to in the world - to be part of His team.**

Jesus walks up to the first disciples one ordinary day as they did their jobs and says, “*Come follow Me*”. If we think about this really happening to us, it’s pretty weird, because if someone came up to us at work and said, “*Come, follow Me*”, there is no way would we say “yes” and go with *them* (unless we hated our jobs and already planned on quitting that day anyway.)

But in Jesus’ day, it was a common thing for rabbis (spiritual leaders and teachers) to say “*Come, follow me*”, and if a rabbi said that to you, it meant he’d picked you to become His disciple, His follower.

The fact that the first disciples were working in the family business as fisherman tells us that they were guys who were used to NOT being picked. In those days, by around 12-14 years old, all the Jewish boys had heard one of two things from the local rabbi: “*Come, follow me*” or “*Go home and learn the family business*” (which meant “No thanks, you’re not good enough to be my disciple. Have a nice life.”)

So, Peter, James, and John were very used to something even worse than getting picked last: they were used to not getting picked at all.

In those days when a rabbi chose you to be his disciple, he was not choosing you just to learn his teaching: he was saying that he believed you had what it takes to be like him, to become like him, to carry on in his place after he was gone. So, Jesus was paying them a HUGE compliment. “*Come follow me*” was a huge honour and affirmation.

It’s a lot like draft day in pro sports. Some players KNOW they are going to be drafted. They’re the ones who are at the draft ceremony, sitting around in fancy clothes with their families, just waiting for their names to be called so they can walk to the podium and be handed the jersey and the hat of the team that picked them.

For some players, it’s just a matter of *when* they will get picked, not *if*. But for other players, it’s very much an “if” thing: they are sitting at home, watching on TV, hoping that some team at some point in the draft calls their name.

And of course, there’s another part of being drafted. A player doesn’t have to become part of the team that drafts them. They can say “no”. They can go do something else with their life. That’s their choice.

We can hear that God drafts us, picks us to be part of His team, and we can pass on being picked because we want our lives to be about something else, or we can pass on it because we don’t really believe that we could ever be what God says we could be.

But regardless of our response, God still picks us. God believes in who we are and who we can become as part of His team. God picks each of us.

**Opener:** Name a sport or make up a sport where you would be picked first for the team.

*Ephesians 1:4-5* “For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.”

## Questions for Discussion

1. **What do you think Paul means when he says God “chose” us? How does that you make you feel when Paul says that we were chosen by God? What response best describes how you feel?**
  - a. Why would He chose me?
  - b. I'm not sure I want to be chosen
  - c. I'm so excited, sign me up!
  - d. Of course He picked me. I'm awesome!
  - e. Other
  
2. **God has been recruiting people to be a part of the “team” for a long time (see below) some were big time players, some were quite average and still others were outcasts. Why do you think God drafted these particular people? What do you think set them apart?**
  - a. Adam (Genesis 2)
  - b. Noah (Genesis 6:11-21)
  - c. Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3)
  - d. Moses (Exodus 3)
  - e. David (1 Samuel 16:1-13)
  - f. Simon (Peter) and Andrew (Matthew 4:19)
  - g. Paul (Acts 9:1-19)
  - h. Timothy (1 Timothy)

*“God has an incredibly high view of people. God believes that people are capable of amazing things. I have been told that I need to believe in Jesus. Which is a good thing. But what I am learning is that Jesus believes in me. I have been told that I need to have faith in God. Which is a good thing. But what I am learning is that God has faith in me.” Rob Bell, Velvet Elvis, (p. 134)*

3. **What are your initial thoughts on Rob Bell’s comments? Why do you think God believes you can have a greater impact on peoples’ lives than you do?**
  
4. **If it’s true that God has faith in you, what is keeping you from saying yes to the calling or draft to join God’s team? How can your small group and those around you help you take steps in that direction?**
  
5. **So many of us want the benefits of being on God’s team, but too many of us choose to stay on the bench rather than getting out on the field. What are some possible examples in recent memory of God calling you out onto the field?**

**Challenge:** Write down one thing God is calling you out on the field to accomplish.

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