

## **“Relationship with God”** **Cannonball All In- #3**

*In light of what Jesus instructed the disciples to do in Matt 28:19-20, what do you think would be included in our call as partners with Jesus Kingdom plan?*

*John 14:12 NLT - 12 "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.*

*Ephesians 2:10 NLT - 10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.*

God created each of us with a purpose. We are His masterpiece and when we partner together with God, using our God-given gifts, we will multiply the works of Jesus (John 14:12).

*This is a good time to consider how God uniquely made you and how you can use your gifting for the Kingdom. Ask those in your group what they see as your unique gifts and how you might use that gifting as you partner with God.*

### **WRAP UP**

God created us to be in partnership with Him. It was His intention from the beginning of time to involve us in His creative process and His redemptive plan. But man failed to keep that covenant relationship and so Jesus established the new covenant that allows us to join God's Kingdom plan once again. Now it is up to us to go “all in” so that our unique gifting can be used as it was intended for the good things God planned for us long ago.

### **Memory Verse**

*He said to his disciples, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. 38 So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields."*

*- Matthew 9:37-38 NLT*

### **PRAYER (20 MIN)**

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: \_\_\_\_\_

Pray for your group members' needs. \_\_\_\_\_

*Challenge- Do you think there is a place for you to use your unique gifts for God's purposes? Take a step to investigate how you can partner with God.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Are you ready to go “all in” with God? If so, you need to understand the relationship you have to Him and how He calls you to partner with Him as you step into your unique calling. Let's find out who God is, who He made us to be, and who we are together with Him. Then we will be able to find the place where we can do the good things He has planned for us to do.

### **Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)**

Who has been your closest partner in work or in life?

### **STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)**

#### **1. Partnership with God**

From the beginning, God's desire has been to partner with us. In Genesis 1:28 it was God's command to be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, govern it, and reign over it.

*Genesis 1:28 NLT - 28 Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground."*

But Adam and Eve didn't want to partner with God and join Him in His plan, instead they chose to go their own way.

*What role did God intend for Adam if he had followed God's plan? (Gen 2:15)*

*Genesis 2:15 NLT - 15 The LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it.*

Adam is not the only one to strike out independent of God's plans. All too often we fail to pause and seek direction from God when faced with major decisions.

*In what significant decisions did you seek God's direction? Were there any big decisions you wish you had sought God but didn't?*

## 2. Jesus Restores the Covenant

Throughout the Old Testament God reached out offering a covenant, or agreement, with His people. But each time the covenant was broken when man failed. Only Jesus was able to restore the covenant relationship with God.

*Hebrews 9:14-15 NLT - 14 Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins. 15 That is why he is the one who mediates a new covenant between God and people, so that all who are called can receive the eternal inheritance God has promised them. For Christ died to set them free from the penalty of the sins they had committed under that first covenant.*

*Why was it imperative for the perfect sacrifice for sin to be made before we partner with God?*

Christ made our partnership with God possible, but it is still up to us to choose to join in God's work. Jesus spent time amongst the people, and He knew the magnitude of the need. He also knew how many were willing to labor with Him.

*How did Jesus summarize the need He saw in Matthew 9:37?*

*Matthew 9:37-38 NLT -. 37 He said to his disciples, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. 38 So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields."*

*What was it that Jesus invited his disciples to join him in doing? (Matthew 10:1) Had Jesus asked them to do anything He had not yet done?*

*Matthew 10:1 NLT - 1 Jesus called his twelve disciples together and gave them authority to cast out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and illness.*

As spectacular as these miracles were, Jesus is more concerned with partnership than pageantry. God doesn't need us to do the work of the kingdom, but He wants us to join Him. He is more than capable of completing the work Himself.

*Why do you think God invites us to be a part of His plan?*

## 3. God Is, I Am, We (God and I) Are

So, if we are considering a commitment to God, a good place to start is by recognizing who we are committing to.

*When you read about Jesus in Matthew 9:35-36 what words would you use to describe Him?*

*Matthew 9:35-38 NLT - 35 Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.*

*There are many ways we can view God and how He relates to us. Discuss with your group the different relationships we have with God and the many roles He plays in our lives. You can use the sentence "God is ..." and fill in the blank.*

It is also important for us to keep the right perspective as we go "all in" with God. He didn't say pray for CEOs or delegators or consumers. The word for worker means just that; one who labors. But in addition to being laborers Jesus authorized His disciple here and again in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-19).

*Matthew 28:18-20 NLT - 18 Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*