AllIn

GOING ALL OUT FOR JESUS, TO LIVE ALL IN TOGETHER

GROUP STUDY GUIDE



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All In: Going All Out Together, To Live All In Together Group Study Guide

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Bonhoeffer, Dietrich, "The Cost of Discipleship," Touchstone Publishing, New York, Copyright 1959, pg. 89.

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Published in San Antonio, TX by Oak Hills Church. Printed in the United States of America.

All In Going All Out For Jesus, To Live All In Together

Introduction

Our world is marked by increasing isolation and division. Many factors contribute to our growing loneliness, including health precautions, modern technology, and full schedules. While these things are not inherently bad, they can lead some people to become removed from the life-giving relationships we need to thrive.

Many of us feel estranged from anything normal - including church. More than any other time in our history it is important for followers of Jesus to find our identity in Christ and for the local church to live our role in God's Kingdom Church.

Jesus never intended for his disciples to live an isolated, solitary lifestyle. Following Jesus is more like a team sport than an individual sport. When we join in the mission of Jesus, together, we experience the power of God's unique community – the church.

This study series, All In, is an invitation for the disciple to go all out in following Jesus, so that each of us can live all in through our relationships within the local church. We envision this study providing opportunities for our church to receive a renewed understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

We can't wait to discover together who we are as disciples and define a modern disciple's relationship with the local church.

Let's go all out for Jesus, to live all in together!

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- **Consider** Every person who trusts in Christ as their Savior is part of God's Kingdom "Church." As Christians, we often refer to this as the "big C" Church. Scripture shows us that the Church has been organized into smaller expressions called local churches, and every one of Jesus' followers are called to participate in a local church. The local church sometimes gets confused with a building, a club, an organization, or a weekly meeting. But the local church is a community of people in relationship with one another. A helpful way to think about the local church is through the model of a family. We will never experience all the Lord intends for us apart from his family.
- **Pray** Begin with prayer. Present your heart, mind, and time to God. Ask him to speak to you as you open his Word.
- **Study** Read the following passages and observe and interpret:
 - What metaphor is used to describe the church in each passage?
 - Ephesians 2:20-22:
 - <u>1 John 3:1</u>:
 - <u>Romans 12:4-5</u>:

Apply Describe which metaphor best depicts to you the importance and purpose of a church, and why:

- **Discuss** Share your experience with church membership? Are you currently, or have you been, a member of a church? If not, what is your perception of church membership? If yes, what was your experience, and how did it impact your faith journey and personal life?
- **Study** Read <u>John 1:12-13</u> and observe and interpret:
 - What gives us the right to be called children of God?
 - What does it mean to be born of God?

Read <u>1 Corinthians 12:12-27</u> and observe and interpret:

- Why does Paul use the word "one" so many times in this passage?
- How does the "body" metaphor contribute to your understanding of the church?

Read <u>1 Peter 2:4-5</u> and observe and interpret:

- Why is the author using construction terminology to describe our connection to God and each other?
- What do you understand "built into a spiritual house" or "holy priesthood" to mean?
- **Pray** God, we thank you for creating us and forming us as distinct and vital parts within the Body of Christ. Please show us how you have uniquely gifted and placed each of us within your family, the church. We rejoice in the value and opportunity you have provided for each of us as members of your body. Amen
- Apply Think of one person you can invite to join our church family for worship this weekend. Share the name with the other members of your group. Then, as a group, pray over each named individual. As God leads you, consider also inviting them to your weekly biblical community gathering.



Consider	Deitrich Bonhoeffer famously wrote, "When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die." A disciple can be
	defined as someone who receives the call to follow Jesus, joins in his mission, and becomes increasingly like him. That definition provides us with three components to consider.
	1. Is my life patterned after the things Jesus modeled and taught his disciples?
	2. Am I participating in the mission of making disciples?
	3. Do my thoughts, actions, and speech increasingly reflect the character of Jesus to those around me?
Pray	Begin with prayer. Express your desire to know Jesus and your hunger for a deeper relationship with him.
Study	Read Philippians 3:7-11 and observe and interpret:
	What does Paul desire more than anything?
	• What do you desire most in life?
Apply	Oak Hills Church offers a free personal discipleship tool to help individuals reflect on God's work in their life

pply Oak Hills Church offers a free personal discipleship tool to help individuals reflect on God's work in their life and identify opportunities for continued growth in their relationship with Jesus. Complete the My Discipleship Journey review this week, consider the personalized discipleship recommendations, and take the next step in your discipleship journey. Start your journey at <u>ohcnow.com/MyJourney</u>.

Discuss Discuss the meaning of each underlined phrase within the Oak Hills Church mission statement: We are disciples who make disciples by guiding all people to follow Jesus moment by moment.

Study Read <u>Luke 14:25-35</u> and observe and interpret:

- Why would Jesus use such strong statements to describe what it means to be his disciple? (v. 25-26)
- Do you think Jesus' explanation scared people away? How does this compare with how we usually teach people about Jesus today?
- How does Jesus invite us to think about discipleship? (v. 28-33)
- What things in your life need to be thrown out or renounced for you to effectively be a disciple? (v. 34-35)
- PrayThank you, Jesus, for calling us to be your disciples. We celebrate all the ways you have already
transformed us. We renounce all the things that still hinder us from following you. Continue to help us
follow you, moment by moment. Amen

Apply Every part of our lives can be improved by the presence of Jesus. What can you do this week to more consistently include Jesus into the various aspects of your daily life? Share with the members of your group and ask for prayer and accountability throughout the week.



Consider Worship, true and proper, is the antidote to self-centeredness—the disease that plagues us all. As children of God, it is important for us to consistently turn our attention to God and let our hearts overflow with affection and adoration. In shifting our focus to God, we remember what he has done for us. Praise and honor are produced in our hearts and proceed from our mouths. This is called worship. Worship certainly happens when we gather together on Sunday to sing and hear God's Word proclaimed, but worship also happens daily in our lives when we respond to the goodness of God with expressions of gratitude, obedience, celebration, and dependance.

Pray Begin with prayer. Give God your full and undivided attention. Delight in his goodness and let your heart be glad as you consider the faithful love he has shown you.

Study Read <u>Psalm 103:1-22</u> and observe and interpret:

- Which of the praises listed in this Psalm stand out most to you?
- What reasons to praise God would you add to the list in Psalm 103?
- When do you most clearly recognize God's presence with you?

ApplyWorship is both an event and a lifestyle. Live this week in response to who God is and what he has done for you.
Let your lifestyle of worship enrich your Sunday morning experience. Download the OHC All In Spotify Playlist at
ohcnow.com/allinplaylist

Discuss Discuss the differences you've experienced between worshipping God individually and worshipping God collectively? Why is it important for followers of Jesus to worship together? How do the various elements of our gathered worship (singing, praying, teaching, communion, etc.) help us grow as disciples?

Study Read <u>2 Chronicles 5:2-14</u> and observe and interpret:

- According to this passage, who was included in worship? (v. 3)
- How did they worship God in this passage?
- What are some of the elements of worship? (v. 11-13)
- When do they worship God?
- What does the cloud represent and why is it significant at this event? (v. 13-14)
- Why was animal sacrifice considered worship? What would this symbolize today?

Read Romans 12:1-2 and observe and interpret:

- What does it mean to present ourselves as "living sacrifices?"
- What patterns in our lives are transformed through worship?
- · How does worship renew our mind?
- How is God's plan revealed in worship?

	praise for aspects of God's character.
Apply	Adopt a new habit to help you break out of your weekend routine. Reconsider how you engage in singing praises, prayer time, or giving. Meet your group for weekend worship, sit together and let your soul be exhorted by gathering with others who believe in the one true God, the maker of heaven and earth! Express the emotions
	connected to your time in the presence of God. Lean into the power of the presence of God that he gives when
9	his people are gathered together.

Take time to remember God's goodness together through prayer as you invite each member of the group to give

Prav



Consider The all-powerful God of the universe, who knows all things and holds all things together, has made himself known to us. More than that, he's made himself available to us. As Christians, we respond to the availability of God as we engage in activities called spiritual practices. Spiritual practices are how we nurture our personal relationship with God. We pray when we want to talk with or hear from God. We read his Word to encounter him and learn of the things he's done. We also fast, give, rest, worship, serve, journal, and fellowship as ways of accessing the grace of God. While there are many spiritual practices, at Oak Hills Church we prioritize Bible reading and prayer because we understand these to be the most foundational spiritual practices.

- **Pray** Begin with prayer. Invite God to speak to you in new ways this week as you prepare to meditate on his Word revealed through the Scripture.
- **Study** Read the following passages and observe and interpret:
 - <u>1 Timothy 4:7-8</u>: What instruction is given to those who desire godliness in their lives?
 - Hebrews 12:11: What promise is made to those who submit themselves to discipline?
 - Psalm 1:2-3: How does this passage describe the relationship a "blessed" person has with the Word of God?
 - Philippians 4:6-7: What instructions and promises regarding prayer do these verses contain?

ApplyGrow in your practice of studying God's Word by using the Inductive Bible Study Method. You can find the
method on the OHC App or visit ohcnow.com/Inductive. Grab some paper/journal and use the method to study
John 3:1-21 as you discover more about spiritual practices.

Discuss Share your understanding and experiences with spiritual practices. How do you sustain a personal relationship with God? What habits have you developed regarding spiritual practices?

- **Study** Read <u>Joshua 1:6-9</u> and observe and interpret:
 - How committed to God's law was Joshua instructed to be? Why are we to be equally committed to God's Word?
 - What role does the Word of God play in our obedience?
 - How does meditating on God's Word make us courageous?

Read <u>Matthew 6:5-18</u> and observe and interpret:

- What spiritual practices are found in these verses?
- What should we avoid in our practice of prayer? (v. 5-8)
- Have you ever struggled to pray? How can Jesus' example help those who are struggling to pray?
- What should you do to fast? (v. 16-18)
- How can fasting lead us to experience the grace of God?
- **Pray** Vary your group's prayer experience this week. Change who prays, how long you pray, or what you pray for. Allow this new experience in prayer to help you draw nearer to God.
- ApplyShare with one another how you experience God's grace through spiritual practices. Have each group member
choose a new spiritual practice to try this week. Reach out to one another to get an update on how a new
spiritual practice has led you to a fresh experience of God's grace this week.



Consider Gathering with other followers of Jesus, and actively participating in a biblical community together allows us to develop authentic relationships, learn from the Scriptures, encourage one another to follow Jesus moment by moment, hold each other accountable, and care for one another. We were created for community. We grow best in community. The reverse of those truths is that when we live apart from genuine biblical community, we place ourselves at risk. Peter reminds us that our enemy is like a lion, looking for someone to devour (<u>1 Peter 5:8</u>), and when one of us gets separated from the flock we become easy prey.

- **Pray** Begin with prayer. Invite God to reveal to you the importance of community. Reflect on the divine community of our triune God—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- **Study** Read <u>Hebrews 3:13</u> and observe and interpret:
 - How often do we need the encouragement of other believers?
 - What danger are we kept from when we remain in the exhorting fellowship of other believers?

Read Galatians 6:1-2 and observe and interpret:

- How does this passage describe the relationships between people in biblical community?
- Do you have relationships in your life with people who will lovingly confront you when you participate in sin?
- ApplyStep into community. If you don't have a biblical community, search for a group this week. OHC offers
local groups gathering in-person, online, and on campus, as well as global groups gathering online. Visit
oakhillschurch.com/groups to search for a biblical community that can encourage you to follow Jesus
moment by moment.

Discuss Share with others what you think is the "secret sauce" of a healthy community? What were the characteristics of the best community you've ever been a part of?

- **Study** Read <u>Romans 12:3-18</u> and observe and interpret:
 - What is the mindset of a healthy community? (v. 3)
 - Who gives us gifts for our community and how should we use those gifts? (v. 4-8)
 - According to this passage what are the "key ingredients" of a strong biblical community? (v. 9-13)
 - What are ways to live in harmony within your biblical community? (v. 14-18)

Read <u>Colossians 3:12-17</u> and observe and interpret:

- What are the identity markers of biblical community? (v. 12)
- What are the actions of biblical community? (v. 13-14)
- What are the practices of biblical community? (v. 15-17)
- **Pray** Exhort one another through prayer. Break into pairs and share your needs and requests with each other and then pray for one another.
- Apply Take a step toward a deeper experience of community. This week, spend time with someone from your group, outside of usual group gathering time. Be intentional with your time together. Ask God to give you a word of encouragement for that person or, if appropriate, share about a sin struggle you're having. Don't settle for shallow relationships that will leave you vulnerable to Satan's attacks.



- **Consider** We are most like Jesus when we are serving others. Serving allows us to reflect the love of God to the world. Because of his immense love for us, we overflow with love, and are compelled to show love to others. According to Jesus, loving others is the second greatest commandment (<u>Matthew 22:38-39</u>). Our love authenticates us as followers of Jesus. It is how people will know that we are his disciples (<u>John 13:34-35</u>). As followers of Jesus, we live as his ambassadors using our time, talents, and treasures to make disciples where we live, work, learn, and play.
- **Pray** Begin with prayer. Ask God to reveal how you can reflect his servant heart by loving others authentically this week. Ask God for opportunities to daily express love to others.

Study Read <u>Philippians 2:3-5</u> and observe and interpret:

- What motivations are we told to do away with?
- As followers of Jesus, how are we to view and treat others?

Read Mark 10:45 and observe and interpret:

- For what reasons did Jesus come?
- What are some practical ways you can have the same attitude Jesus did?
- ApplyMeditate on John 13:1-17 this week. Seek out ways to serve others the way Jesus served his disciples. Seek out
someone where you live, work, learn, or play that you can share the love of Jesus to through acts of service.

- **Discuss** Think of one person in your life who embodies the characteristics of a servant. Share with your group why you thought of this person and how they inspire you to serve others.
- **Study** Read <u>Luke 22:24-30</u> and observe and interpret:
 - The Kingdom of God could be seen as an upside-down world, what makes it this way? (v. 27)
 - In what ways did Jesus show that he was a servant?
 - How can we live out servant leadership?

Read <u>1 John 3:11-20</u> and observe and interpret:

- What is the root desire of serving others? (v. 11)
- What example is given to us from Jesus' life? (v. 16-17)
- How do we love others through serving? (v. 18-20)
- **Pray** Jesus, we thank you for your example of serving others. Holy Spirit, please help us to see how we can serve others. Show us each individually someone you want us to share the hope of Jesus with this week. We sit in silence and welcome your presence God, lead us to love like you. We love you God. Amen
- ApplyTake your next step to serve others. Consider how you can serve others together as a group! If you're already
serving regularly somewhere, consider inviting the members of your group to join you so you can experience the
joy of serving together. To find new serve opportunities, visit <u>oakhillschurch.com/serve</u> and join a team serving
the church body, or partner with OHC to serve in our community through our local outreach ministry. View local
opportunities to share the hope of Jesus and serve others together at <u>oakhillschurch.com/local</u>.



- **Consider** If we surveyed everyone in the Oak Hills Church congregation, and asked their occupations, we would get a plethora of different answers. Some might say, "I am a lawyer," or "I am an accountant," and maybe "I am a school teacher," and "I am a barista." It is our hope that if we surveyed the congregation with the question "who are you," their answers would all be the same, "I am a disciple of Jesus." What a vision, what a mission, what a calling that we all join in together! That statement declares to the world that we are going all out for Jesus. We have counted the cost. We have died to our old selves. Now, it's time to go all in, together. To be a part of God's family, the local church. At Oak Hills Church, we envision a community of disciples courageously engaging culture with the hope of Jesus where we live, work, learn, and play. Let's go all in, together.
- **Pray** Begin with prayer. Invite the Holy Spirit to guide you this week to go "all out" for Jesus. Ask God to prepare you to be "all in" with his family, the church.
- **Study** Read <u>Matthew 19:16-30</u> and observe and interpret:
 - What was the man seeking? (v. 16)
 - What was Jesus' instruction to the man?
 - Why did the man go away sad?

Read Psalm 37:4 and observe and interpret:

- What words from this verse stand out to you, why?
- What do you most delight in?

Read <u>Matthew 5:6</u> and observe and interpret:

- What does Jesus guide us toward to be filled?
- What do you desire above everything?
- ApplyReview the four OHC Discipleship Commitments: Worship Together, Spiritual Practices, Biblical Community, and
Serve Others. In which areas of discipleship are you thriving, and in which areas do you hope to grow? Prayerful-
ly ask God to use the OHC family to encourage your growth as a disciple and commit yourself to being used by
him to encourage others as we go "all in" together.

Discuss Is it possible to go all in as a disciple of Jesus but not be deeply connected to a church family? Why or why not?

Study

- Josiah's story is one of renewal, who is included in this story? (v. 29-31)
- What is the culminating act of this moment of renewal? (v. 32)

Read 2 Chronicles 34:29-33 and observe and interpret:

- What is the meaning of a covenant?
- What is the main action needed for a healthy covenant? (v. 31)
- How can you renew your covenant with the Lord through the family of Oak Hills Church?

Read Matthew 28:16-20 and observe and interpret:

- What does Jesus instruct us to do in this passage? (v. 19-20)
- This passage is called the Great Commission, how does it align with the Oak Hills Church mission, vision, and discipleship commitments?
- **Pray** Lord, thank you for calling us to follow you. Help us see this call of discipleship as an invitation into your kingdom family through the local church. Please guide us to faithfully commit or recommit to membership within a local church, so that we might grow as disciples. Amen

Apply If you are ready to go all in by joining the Oak Hills Church family through membership, visit <u>ohcnow.com/Membership</u> and complete the following steps:

Go All Out – Let OHC know that you have gone all out and given your life to Jesus, declaring him as your Lord and Savior, and have subsequently experienced baptism through immersion as a proclamation of your faith in him. If you were baptized as an infant or want to learn more about baptism visit oakhillschurch.com/baptism to learn more or schedule your baptism. Once you've gone all out, you're ready to go all in!

Go All In - Prayerfully review and sign the OHC Membership Covenant.

Get A Guide – At OHC we believe that discipleship happens best in the context of relationships. In this step you'll have a conversation about our four discipleship commitments with someone who is guiding you spiritually. It could be your small group leader, Bible study teacher, serve team minister, or mentor. If you don't have anyone guiding you spiritually right now, don't worry, we will be happy to connect you with a trusted elder, minister, leader, or coach to guide you.

Be A Disciple – Let's follow Jesus, and let's do it together! Dive into worship together, spiritual practices, biblical community, and serving others. Share the hope of Jesus. Make disciples. Live all in!



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