

# THE JESUS WAY | DISCUSSION GUIDE

## SESSION 1

### Engaging at the Level of Story



#### [Read Small Group Guidelines](#)



#### Opening Prayer

“Heavenly Father, thank You for bringing us together and for the opportunity to grow in faith and community. Help us to listen well, speak with kindness, and respect one another as we share. We commit to honoring the guidelines that help make this a safe and meaningful space, and we are open to being lovingly held accountable to them. Guide our conversation tonight and shape us more into the likeness of Jesus. Amen.”



#### Overview

In this session, we'll explore what it means to engage at the level of story—shifting from debating opinions to listening to personal experiences. As we listen first and seek to understand, we create space for deeper empathy, connection, and meaningful conversation.



## [Watch Session 1 Video Teaching: Engaging at the Level of Story](#)



### Discussion Questions



1. Please share your name and how long you've been connected to New Beginnings Community Church.
2. Finish the sentence: "One thing that is critical for this small group to be a safe environment for me is...."
3. What was something new or surprising you heard from the video? Did anything challenge what you previously thought?
4. What negative part of your story has shaped you the most? Example: loss, grief, failure, depression, anxiety, bullying, divorce, etc.
5. What positive part of your story has shaped you the most? Example: friendships, trips, achievements, school, sports, etc.
6. What is your one takeaway from this week's practice? If you had to summarize it in one sentence, what would it be?



### Closing Prayer

"Lord, thank you for being in our midst and for the stories shared today. Please guide us as we continue to learn, listen, and share in the weeks to come. Bless us and keep us until we gather again. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen."