



## Designing Life: Crowd Sourcing | February 27, 2019

### Discussion Guide

#### The Scoop

Social media outlets have increased our ability to crowdsource, and to do so quickly. What if we could apply the idea and benefits of crowdsourcing to our faith? Read below to hear more.

#### Key Verses

**Matthew 18:20 (NIV)**

*"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."*

#### Discussion

When developing new products, companies often go through a feedback process where they gather opinions in order to improve the product before it's released. This kind of "crowdsourcing" has existed for a long time. These days, social media makes this process easy and achievable for normal people, like you and me. We can create polls, ask for suggestions, and gather opinions very quickly. In addition, instead of being paid for opinions, the feedback we get is honest and real.

1. When is the last time you crowdsourced for something on social media? Was it successful? Explain.
2. What are the benefits of crowdsourcing for normal people? What do we avoid by doing so? What do we gain?

There are a lot of benefits to crowdsourcing. We gain information we may never have gathered and valuable perspective we ourselves can't bring to the table. Because of these benefits, it's worth thinking about how we can incorporate some of the same ideas and concepts into our faith as well. Whenever we invite others into our lives, we learn from their experiences, failures, and successes. We also get great feedback for major decisions we are about to make.

3. In what ways have you involved others in your faith journey? If you haven't, why might this be the case?
4. In what ways would involving others benefit your faith journey? How might God use relationships in your life to help you learn more about Him?

In Matthew 18:20, we read about a God who is present where people gather together. We see that all the time in the Bible; God is relational in his nature. He encourages us to invite Him in when we gather with others as well. When we involve others in big decisions, we allow God to speak into our decisions through the wise advice and perspective of other people. When we ask others to hold us accountable in life, we invite them to help us live up to the goals and standards we set for ourselves as well as what God desires of us.

5. When was the last time you asked someone you trust for wise counsel or to keep you accountable?
6. How might these two ways of involving others in our faith lives help us grow as individuals and corporately?

#### What's Next?

When we invite others into our lives, to speak into what we're going through or big decisions we are faced with, we are also inviting God to be present in those things as well. When we invite others in, it's wise to be overt about wanting God to be part of the conversation. Intend on and believe that God will show up when you gather with others intentionally in your life.

This week, as you live out your faith, choose a few trusted people to include in your life. When you do so, you'll apply some of the same principles of crowdsourcing in design thinking to your faith, and by doing so, you'll experience God showing up in new ways.