

## Introduction

Who is the person you know you can always go to? What draws you to that person in your time of need? During our *Becoming the Person Others Turn To* series, we'll learn about becoming that person to your Little Iowa. In week one, Pastor John taught us the ultimate goal is to become more like Jesus and highlighted how His actions shaped Him into someone who could step into the mess of others and be counted on.

## Discussion

1. Imagine you found yourself in a time of crisis right now. Who's the first person you'd pick up the phone and call? Why? What about them, or your relationship, drove you to think of them first?
2. **Jesus' source was solid.** Because He made room for God, He was given opportunities with others. What is your source of motivation these days? Your relationship with God? Fear? Guilt? Sheer willpower? If it isn't God, why is that? What opportunities exist in your life where you can start finding time away with Him and what will it take to make it happen?
3. **Jesus' pace was sure.** He didn't hurry, and He didn't do busy. Take time to rate your hurry and busyness as "Red" (unhealthy), "Yellow" (increasing/decreasing in health), or "Green" (healthy). Share the why behind your ratings. If you aren't in the "green" zone, how might your current pace be causing you to miss what God has for you?
4. **Jesus' balance was pure.** He didn't pit love and truth against each other. **Revisit and read John 8.** How does this story show Jesus inviting someone into both love and truth? How or where have you seen this modeled well in your life?
5. **Jesus' demeanor was steady.** Be honest here – how well do you "keep the main thing the main thing"? If a friend comes to you in a rough spot, are you more likely to limit the drama and elevate the calm? Why or why not? Remember, your group's a safe place to share and process where you are, regardless of what it looks like.
6. **Jesus' method was curiosity.** He asked questions to get to the heart of an issue. Do you have someone in your life who's done this well with you? If so, who was it, and what did that mean to you? In conversations, are you a question asker or do you tend to be a conversation filler? Again, it's safe to be honest. How might you learn from and model someone who's done this well with you?

## Application

- **Identify the gap.** You spent your discussion reflecting on healthy examples of Jesus' character and evaluating your health through this lens. Identify the one area you would benefit from growing in the most and create a simple plan to "close the gap" from where you are now to where you want to be.
- **Invite Jesus into it.** It's great to identify where you can grow. It's even better when it's growing with Jesus. Take time to ask Jesus what's next for you to become a person others can turn to and trust His direction – even if it's unexpected or difficult.
- **Practice active listening.** The best way to be thought of as interesting is to be interested in someone else. Repeat back what someone said as an affirmation of what you just heard (and to make sure you heard them right). Ask questions first and talk second. Make their heart the focus of the conversation rather than what you may be able to contribute to it. This takes legitimate focus and practice when you're with others, so don't get discouraged if it takes time develop this skill.