



Week 1: November 25 – December 1

Introduce Guests/Share Life: *How has this week been going? Good? Bad? Ugly? Things to celebrate?*

Open in Prayer: *Include any prayer needs that came up while you were sharing life together.*

Recall the Guidelines: *Ask: "What is the purpose of the guidelines?" Answer: To be relational!*

Share the Vision: *As a small group, our primary focus is relational discipleship. Our goal is to learn how to live out discipleship together, and to work together to reproduce discipleship with others.*

Ask someone to retell last week's story (2 Chronicles 20:20-30).

Hook Question: Can you share about a time when you had a deep craving? Something that far exceeded a typical craving or desire? Perhaps it was a person you love? A food item you enjoy? A place you love to visit?

Ask someone from your team to read or tell the following background for the story:

Have you ever had an incredible longing to be with someone? To have a relationship with them? To know everything you can about them? Have you ever considered that you should have that kind of passion for God? There are several people in the Bible who expressed this kind of passion for God.

The prophet Isaiah said, "With my soul I have desired You in the night, yes, by my spirit within me I will seek You early." Paul said, "But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord."

Perhaps the man who expressed the greatest longing for God in all of Scripture was David. The Psalms are filled with the expression of his desire for God. David said, "Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You." He also said, "As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, the living God. When will I come and appear before God?"

Today's story captures David's intense desire for God. During the days of David, the Ark of the Covenant was the hotspot of God's presence on the earth. David longed for God's presence and he had a vision to bring the ark of the covenant to Israel's new political capital, Jerusalem (also called the City of David). After facing many obstacles, the day finally arrived for David to bring the ark out of the household of Obed-Edom where it had sat for three months and usher it in to Jerusalem. It was an intoxicating moment for David! He was overwhelmed with God's Spirit and his desire for God! This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from 2 Samuel 6:12-23: *Use different storytellers. Teach people to share God's Word!*

Rebuild the story: *Group members retell the story based on what they remember.*

Read the story from 2 Samuel 6:12-23: *Ask the group to read these verses.*

Discussion Questions: learn to talk about God's Word with others...

Head
Questions:
Quicker
tempo.

Heart & Hand
Questions:
Slow down &
wait!

- What stands out to you in this story? Why?
- What does this story teach us about people?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What do you think God is trying to show you right now? How do you need to change?
- Who could retell the story for us right here one last time?

Ask for a volunteer to tell the Bible story next week.

Close in prayer.



Week 1: Desiring God

The Discipleship Process (SCMD)

As small group leaders, each of us has become familiar with the discipleship process outlined on the discipleship wheel. The wheel illustration outlines the biblical process that Jesus taught and modeled for His disciples to use.

There are four quadrants in the wheel graphic. Each quadrant outlines a stage of spiritual growth and what the people in that stage need to help them mature. Ultimately, the end goal for every believer is to help them become a disciple who discipled others; but how do we get there?

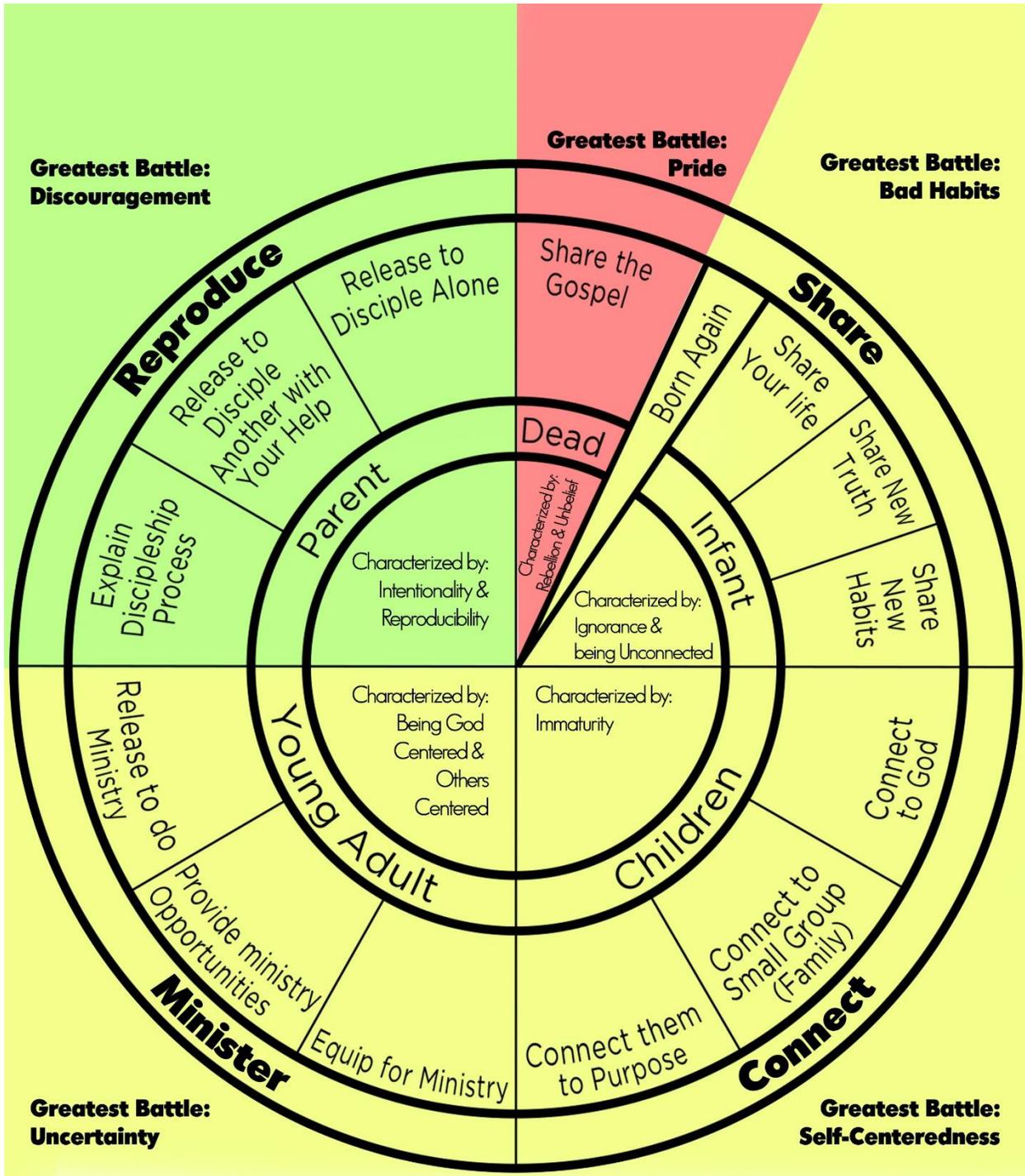
Share – Connect – Minister – Disciple (SCMD)

Over the next four weeks, we will take a look at what the disciples in each quadrant need to help them grow into the next stage of spiritual maturity. During this study, it will be assumed that you are familiar with the stages of spiritual growth (dead, infant, child, young adult, parent); therefore, we will not spend time unpacking those stages. Instead, we will focus on our part to help disciples in every stage grow.

There are a couple of important principles we must always remember about the wheel:

- ANYONE who is a new creation in Christ is able to IMMEDIATELY begin to disciple others – regardless of where they are in the discipleship process. Jim Putman puts it this way, “You are able to disciple another, no matter where you are in the process, to the level of maturity you yourself have reached.” This is why it is so important that each of us allow God to work in our hearts to mature us!
- The wheel is a tool, not a labeling system. The purpose of the wheel is not to assign people to categories and divide them up! The purpose of the wheel is to unite God’s people in a common vision to mature to a point where every person is equipped to reproduce disciples who can make disciples. In this way, the wheel is a tool that helps disciple-makers identify where a person is at in their spiritual journey so they can be connected to what they need. Our part is to recognize what stage a person is in so we can do our part to lead them to share, connect, minister, and disciple.

Please remember to read the coaching guide each week over the next four weeks as we more closely examine the discipleship process (SCMD)! See the wheel on the next page.



 **Able to reproduce Discipleship Leaders**

 **Equipped by the Spirit to engage others in the Discipleship Process**

 **Able to use influence to impact others.**