



Week 2: December 2-8

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: *Our group is a discipleship group. We meditate on God's Word together every week. We do self-evaluation together and get honest. Everything we are doing here is something you can reproduce!*

Ask someone to retell last week's story (2 Samuel 6:12-23).

Hook Question: What is something about God that makes you desire Him? Not just something He has done for you, but what is it about who He is that causes you to want to know Him more and more?

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

Today's story is part of the Christmas story in the Scriptures. It is the story of Gabriel's announcement to Mary about the arrival of Jesus. Here are a few things you should know about this story. First, the name "Jesus" means "Savior." Second, Mary had a cousin named Elizabeth. Just before today's story about Mary, Elizabeth found favor with God and was expecting the arrival of a baby named John. This baby would grow up to be the greatest prophet in history: John the Baptist. Finally, Mary lived in a dark time in Israel. The Roman Empire was in control of her territory, and they were under heavy taxation and oppression. God had been silent in Israel for about 400 years. It was not an easy time or place to live.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, was extremely poor. She was one of the weak; just a lowly Jewish girl under the bondage of the Roman Empire. Apart from God's favor, there was nothing about Mary to make her special. In fact, had God not shown her so much favor, she would have simply been forgotten by history. Mary needed God's salvation. She needed His salvation from sin. She needed deliverance from her bondage. She needed His favor to have hope and to form a legacy. She could not save herself.

Pay attention to all the titles of God in this story: Lord, Savior, Most High, King, Eternal, Holy, Powerful, True... as you hear these titles, let God's Word magnify your perspective of God. This God, the Most High, has given His Son so that His Spirit could come and dwell in you. How awesome is the Lord Most High! With this in our hearts, this is where our story begins...

Tell the story from Luke 1:26-38: *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 Luke 1:26-38: *Ask the group to read these verses.*

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

Head
Questions:
Quicker
tempo.

- In response to this event, Mary wrote a song to God. Read the song in Luke 1:46-55...
- What do you think it was about God that made Mary so desire Him so much?
- What does this story teach us about people?
- What does this story teach us about God?

Heart & Hand
Questions:
Slow down &
wait!

- 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 2: Desiring God

Quadrant One: Share

The wheel (next page) outlines the discipleship process we use based on the example of Jesus and the teachings in the New Testament. In the first quadrant of the wheel (top-right) there are two phases of spiritual growth: spiritually dead and spiritual infants.

Spiritually Dead:

Unregenerate. Lost in sin. Unbelieving. Eternally damned. Rebels towards God.

Spiritual Infants:

New believers. Babes in Christ. Ignorant of spiritual truths. Need help getting connected.

Both these phases share the same quadrant of the wheel because they both need the same type of discipleship in order to grow. The spiritually dead and spiritual infants both need a more mature disciple to share with them.

In the SCMD process, "S" stands for "Share."

In 1 Thessalonians 2:8, Paul said,

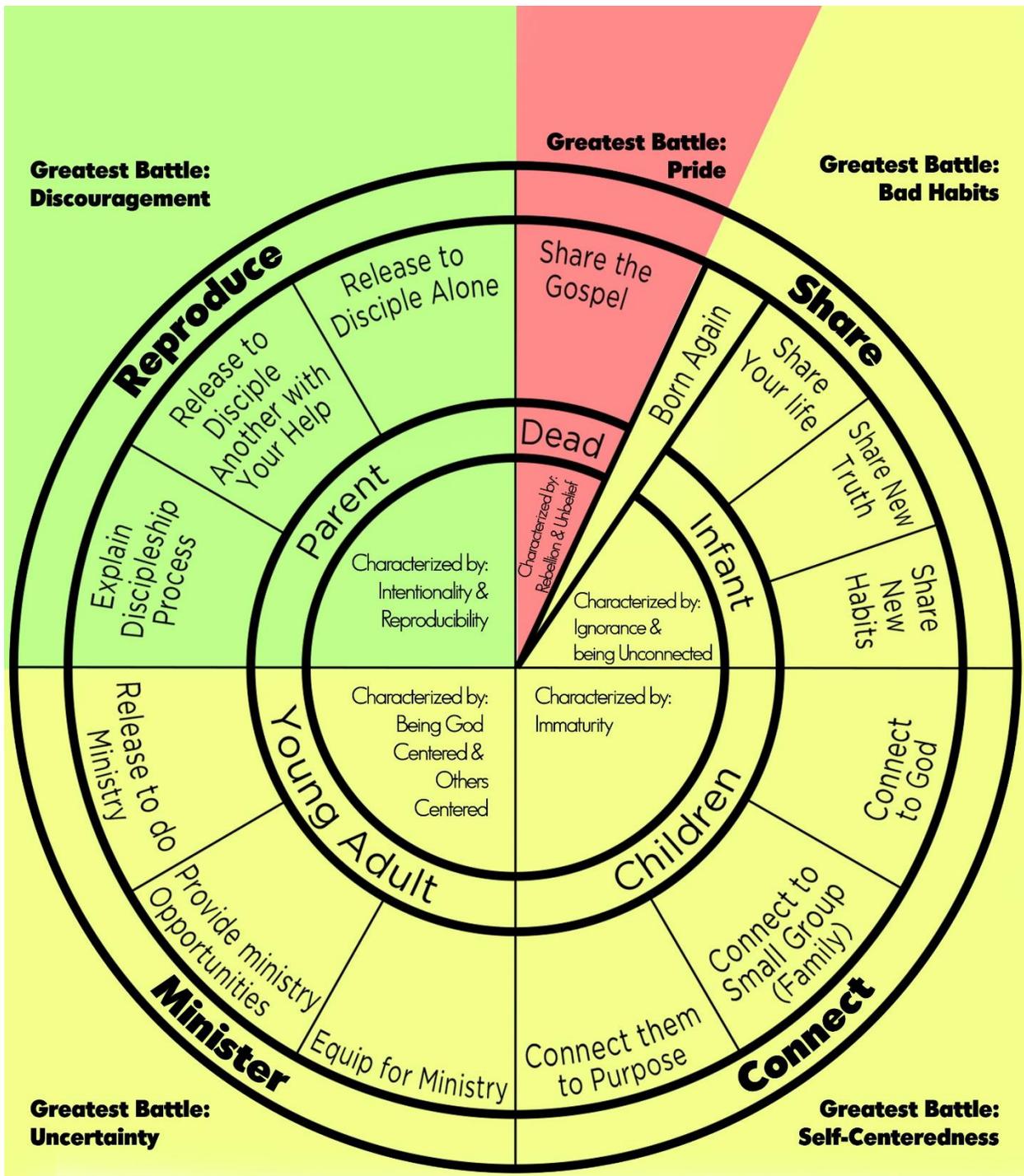
"...so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well."

Relational discipleship is the most challenging discipleship commitment a person can make. Leading a Bible study has a set start and stop. There are breaks. There is regular turnover. Ministering in a special event can be time consuming, but it always has well defined parameters, timeframes, and boundaries. In relational discipleship, the disciple-maker follows the model of Jesus in discipleship. They make themselves available to those they are discipling. They establish an ongoing commitment with them. They share not only the gospel with them, but their very lives.

What do they need us to specifically share with them? See the wheel for the answers.

Sharing your life with someone else in relational discipleship is only possible when you reach a point of embracing God's purpose for your life. You cannot share without His strength. In the moment you embrace His power and purpose and begin to follow the example of Jesus in discipleship, you will experience a new measure of God's salvation in your own life. God loves to call the weak to accomplish His purposes. It brings Him glory. It leaves no room for boasting except in Him (1 Cor. 1).

Review the discipleship process (the wheel) on the next page. Spend a moment in prayer...



 **Able to reproduce Discipleship Leaders**

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

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