

FOLLOW ME

Week 5: July 18-24

Welcome/ Introduce Guests/ Share Life (10 minutes)

Recall the Guidelines/ Open in Prayer

Vision Casting (2 minutes): A disciple making culture means we love one another well by entering into real life relationships and we commit to regularly being in God's word together through a reproducible process so we can make disciples who make disciples.

Hook Question (5 minutes): Have you experienced division or disfunction among people in your life? If so, when and what happened?

Ask someone to read the background for the story (2 minutes):

When Jesus began His ministry, there was great division among the Jews. For a group of people who had so many things in common, they were very divided in their beliefs. This division was caused by different teachings from the Pharisees and the Sadducees. While both groups of leaders claimed to be experts in the law, they had many differences concerning God. The Pharisees believed in the supernatural (angels, demons, afterlife etc.), while the Sadducees did not. This fundamental disagreement about God and how He works caused a great division in their own people. The Sadducees also had more social standing because they were aristocrats. This allowed them to have great influence with Roman leaders. The Pharisees were not aristocrats but had a greater relationship with the Jewish people. Many Pharisees were not wealthy because of inheritance. They gained their wealth through hard work which allowed them to relate with common people more easily.

Jesus desired for His people to be unified under one leader, Himself. At the end of His ministry, He taught much about the unity He and the Father experienced. Because He and the Father are one, His children are also one with Him. When we experience unity in Christ, we have peace in a tumultuous world. Knowing the need for unity, Jesus would pray a prayer centered on unity for His disciples. This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from John 17:1-26 (12 Minutes): Change the storyteller often.

Rebuild John 17:1-26: Retell the story as well as possible.

Read John 17:1-26: Ask the group to read these verses.

Discussion Questions: Learn to talk about God's word with others. **(Take as much time as needed.)**

- What stands out to you in this story?
- What does this story teach you about God?
- What does this story teach you about yourself and others?
- How is the Holy Spirit speaking to you? How should you apply this story to your life?

Ask for a volunteer storyteller for next week. Close in Prayer.