

God's GOAL in me

Week 4: October 28 – November 3

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: *At group, not only will we engage one another in relational discipleship every week, but we will also practice a method for studying the Bible that you can reproduce and use to disciple others!*

Ask someone to retell last week's story (2 Samuel 2:1-10).

Hook Question: Can you share about a time when you appeared to do "the right thing" but you know you had the wrong motives?

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

Today's story takes place during the time Jesus was on the earth. There was a family of three siblings, two sisters and a brother, that lived in a town called Bethany that was located just outside Jerusalem. The sisters' names were Mary and Martha and the brother's name was Lazarus. Jesus loved this family dearly.

There are a few stories about this family in the gospel of John. One is when Martha was busy serving while Mary was sitting at the feet of Jesus. Perhaps the most famous story about this family is the story when Lazarus dies and Jesus comes later and raises him from the dead.

Today's story takes place just after Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. When Lazarus was raised, Jesus demonstrated His power and authority over death. It was a foretelling of His own coming death and resurrection. In today's story, Jesus foretells of His own death and resurrection again.

Notice the attitudes of the people in this story. We know the disciples loved Jesus. We know Lazarus, Mary, and Martha loved Jesus. Their hearts were soft towards Him. They struggled, but their motives were right. But what about Judas Iscariot? Notice how his motives are different. Notice how he relates to Jesus compared to the rest. His life is a warning to us all. This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from John 12:1-8: *Use different storytellers. Teach people to share God's Word!*

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

Read John 12:1-8: *Ask the group to read these verses.*

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

Head
Questions:
Quicker
tempo.

- What do you like or dislike about this story? What stands out to you?
- What does this story teach us about people?
- What does this story teach us about God?

Heart & Hand
Questions:
Slow down &
wait!

- How do you relate to this story?
 - What is God showing you that 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 4: Intentionally Disciple Others Towards Spiritual Maturity

What is spiritual maturity?

- Bible knowledge?
- Church engagement?
- Bible reading?
- Prayer warrior?
- Giving faithfully?
- Staying pure?
- Being wise?
- Moral choices?

Certainly, a person who is growing up in spiritual maturity will grow in these areas! But are these the mark? How do we know if we are growing in spiritual maturity?

Consider our recent series of messages. Spiritual maturity is ultimately being conformed into the image of Jesus (Romans 8:29-30). What does this mean on a practical level?

First, it means that God does His part to sanctify us, to conform us into the image of His Son:

1. He foreknew us.
2. He predestined us.
3. He called us.
4. He justified us.
5. He glorified us.

(Based on Romans 8:29-30. Listen to week one and two of this current series of messages for more.)

Next, there is our part in our sanctification. We cooperate with God to be conformed into the image of His Son:

1. Learn the Bible and learn to think biblically.
2. Live out what we learn by practicing it in our lives.
3. Lead others to learn and to live it out.

All three points above are necessary in our spiritual growth, our sanctification. If you leave one point out, a person's spiritual growth will be stunted.

So, how do you lead others to spiritual maturity? First, learn what God has done to sanctify you! What you believe will impact every area of your life! Next, do your part. Look at the list of three things. What are you doing well? Rejoice in that! What are you weakest in? Strengthen it. You will not grow unless all three work together. Finally, make sure you are leading others. Not later. Not when you get this down better. Right away. Your spiritual growth and their spiritual growth depends on it. Trust the Holy Spirit in you and go make disciples. Teach them to do the same.