

God's GOAL in me

Week 5: November 4-10

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: *What is our goal as a small group? Studying the Bible together is part of it. Being transparent and discipling each other is part. Praying together is part. The primary goal is for each of us to grow into spiritual maturity by being disciples of Jesus who make disciples of Jesus!*

Ask someone to retell last week's story (John 12:1-8).

Hook Question: *If you are struggling with forgiving someone right now, can you share about your struggle? If you are not struggling with forgiveness right now, can you share about a time when you have struggled?*

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

In Matthew chapter 18, Jesus takes time to teach His disciples some important principles about relationships. In the course of this chapter, Jesus covers the importance of being humble like a child, not causing weaker brothers to stumble, and chasing the strays who are wandering from God's flock.

What Jesus taught His disciples next caught Peter off guard. Jesus began to teach about the right way to resolve conflicts when someone wrongs us. As people, we have a strong tendency to do great harm to ourselves and others in the way we resolve conflicts: talking behind their back, gossip, slander, putting others down, and believing the worst about others. Jesus taught His disciples a different way. He told them the goal was reconciliation, not being right. He taught them to always start the conflict resolution process by going to the other person one-to-one with the right motive. If the problem is not resolved, He taught them to bring in one or two others who could help bring reconciliation (for us, our small group leader). If that failed, He taught them to involve the church (for us, our small group) with the goal of bringing about repentance and reconciliation. In saying this, Jesus was teaching that the goal was to always bring about forgiveness and reconciliation in the relationship, no matter the wrong committed! This was radical teaching! When Jesus taught this, He prompted a question in Peter. This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from Matthew 18:21-35: *Use different storytellers. Teach people to share God's Word!*

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

Read Matthew 18:21-35: *Ask the group to read these verses.*

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

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?
 - How is the king in this story and example of God?

Heart & Hand
Questions:
Slow down &
wait!

- How do you relate to this story? Is there someone you need to forgive? To show mercy?
 - 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 5: Identify, Equip, and Release New Leaders

How would you answer this question: “What is the most important goal of a small group leader?”

Think about it for a moment. How would you answer? What do you think the most important goal of a small group leader is right now?

Now, here’s the answer we want you to embrace: The most important goal of a small group leader is to reproduce more discipleship leaders.

For the small group leader, nothing should be more important than reproducing disciples who will make disciples. Why? Because this is the heartbeat of the Great Commission. We cannot obey Jesus’s command to go and make disciples to the ends of the earth without reproducing disciple-makers. We cannot fulfill the mission alone. Church is a team sport.

How do we go about reproducing leaders? Let me start by saying what will not work. Putting pressure on someone to lead a small group will not work. Trying to make someone lead a group who doesn’t want to lead a group will not work. Putting a guilt trip on people will not work.

So, what will work?

You must identify those who are responding to God’s call to make disciples. Don’t get me wrong, we are all called to make disciples. Every Christian. Every person who is a new creation. All of us. Without exception. However, not everyone is responding to that call. So, what do we do?

Pray. Ask God to show you who He wants you to disciple. Open your heart to include people that you might not first consider. When God puts someone on your heart, ask them if you can disciple them. If they say yes, be prepared to tell them what it would look like (being in your group, meeting with you outside group, sharing life daily over text, reading the Word together, serving together, etc.). If they agree, watch to see if they follow through. If they do, then give them a lot of your life! Invest until you help them reach a place where they can disciple another! If they are not faithful, continue to hunt for someone who is F.A.T. (faithful, available, and teachable).

As you work towards identifying, equipping, and releasing new leaders, remember that you can only do your part. God must do His part in their lives! Discipleship is something we cannot hope to accomplish without His help. We are responsible for our part (our character and doing our best to meet them at their point of need). From there, we must pray for God to do His part, and do our best to guide and coach them to do their part. Without this attitude, we will find little success and much discouragement in our discipleship journey.