

God's GOAL in me

Week 6: November 11-17

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: *Picture an airplane called "discipleship." It has two wings. One wing called "relational," and the other wing "mission." The purpose of our group is to make disciples who will make disciples. We must all develop two wings: relationships and the mission. Without both, we won't get off the ground.*

Ask someone to retell last week's story (Matthew 18:21-35).

Hook Question: Can you share about a time when you felt incredibly loved by someone? What happened?

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

Jesus clearly stated that the greatest commandment is to love; specifically, to love God and to love others (Matt. 22:36-40). In today's lesson, we will focus our hearts on becoming more like Jesus by loving like Him.

On the night of His betrayal, Jesus spent time revealing deep truths to His disciples in the upper room and in the garden on the Mount of Olives. He had not yet gone to the cross, but He had been living His life for approximately the past three years with these men. On this night, Jesus gave them a new commandment. He said, "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." When most people think about the love of Jesus, they think about the cross; however, Jesus had not been to the cross yet when He gave this command to His disciples! When He said this to them, they would not have pictured the cross. They would have pictured His life and how He shared it with them for so long. Of course, we should also think of the cross when we think of the love of Jesus, but it should not stop there. Jesus lived His life to set an example of love for us.

Today's story happens before the cross. The story is one of dozens of examples of how Jesus lived His life to love His disciples and to love others. Jesus decided to head out of town to spend some time with His disciples to teach them. With the topic of love in our hearts and minds, this is where our story begins...

Tell the story from Mark 9:30-37: *Use different storytellers. Teach people to share God's Word!*

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

Read Mark 9:30-37: *Ask the group to read these verses.*

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

Head
Questions:
Quicker
tempo.

- How did Jesus show love to His disciples in this story?
- 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?

Heart & Hand
Questions:
Slow down &
wait!

- How do you relate to this story?
- How does God want to use this story and discussion to change you and make you more like Jesus?
- 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 6: Work as a Team

One of the most overlooked elements of Jesus's discipleship strategy is the reality that He chose to make disciples as part of a team rather than one-to-one.

When you read through the gospels, notice how often Jesus is sharing life with His guys as a group. He engages them in relational discipleship as a group, not one-to-one. He calls them into ministry with Him and gives them assignments as a group, not individually. He sends them out in twos to visit towns in front of Him, not alone.

Jesus has set the example for His church. His life provides the best road map for how we can be most effective in making disciples. The example of Jesus is clear: work as a team.

There are many ways we are working together as a team in our local church body:

- We make disciples in teams called "groups"
- We have several teams of leaders who work together to lead us to be His Church:
 - Small Group Leaders (lead our groups and lead others to make disciples)
 - Coaches (lead our small group leaders)
 - Elders (lead in the spiritual needs of the church)
 - Deacons (lead in the physical needs of the church)
 - Trustees (lead the business side of the church)
 - Directors (lead teams in various ministries of our church – i.e. men, women, student, children, clubs, education, missions, media, finance, office, kitchen, etc.)

These are just a few of the teams that work together in our church. Being in a team is what church is about. As Jim Putman puts it, "Church is a team sport."

Your small group is a team. As the group leader, God has called you to lead that team. Your part is to work under the authority of our team of coaches and our team of elders to do your part in reproducing discipleship in your team (aka your group).

How are you doing when it comes to working as a team with your local church family? What does God want you to change so you can be more effective as a team player?