



Week 2: January 12-18

10min

Welcome / Introduce Guests
Celebrate! / Open in Prayer / Recall the Guidelines

2min

Share the Vision: To be a disciple-maker you must be intentional. Being intentional starts with your relationship with God. From there, being intentional means investing in relationships in your family, your small group, and your community. To do this successfully, you must schedule and keep appointments.

5min

Hook Question: What are your strengths when it comes to being intentional in your relationships with God, with your family, and with others? Where do you need to grow the most?

2min

Retell Last Week's Story: *Jesus turns water to wine (John 2:1-11).*

2min

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

Jesus was an intentional disciple-maker. One of the things this meant is that Jesus was on high alert for opportunities to make disciples and to share the good news of the Kingdom of God with others.

In today's story, Jesus encounters a Samaritan woman. There are a few helpful points to make about this story before it is told. First, Jesus was traveling and was tired. This was not a convenient time for Him to be alert and available to share the gospel with anyone. Second, Jesus risked His reputation just by talking with this Samaritan woman. Jesus risked His reputation because she was a Samaritan and because she was a woman. His willingness to talk with her would have been considered unrespectable and improper. Plus, Jesus knew that this woman had a sketchy past and He still talked with her!

Finally, it can be helpful to know a little something about the mountains where Samaritans and Jews worshipped. Jews rightly believed that God's holy mountain was in Jerusalem. The Jews constructed the temple on this mountain and worshipped God on this mountain. However, the Samaritans believed that the holy mountain where God wanted people to worship was in their home country. This, among other disagreements about beliefs and practices, was a big part of the reason for the conflict between Jews and Samaritans. With this background in our minds, it is time for our story to begin...

12min

Tell the story from John 4:1-42: *Remember to change up the storyteller often.*
Rebuild the story: *Group members retell the story based on what they remember.*
Read the story from John 2:1-11: *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 the most?
- 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 through this story and our discussion?
- Who could retell the story for us right here one last time?

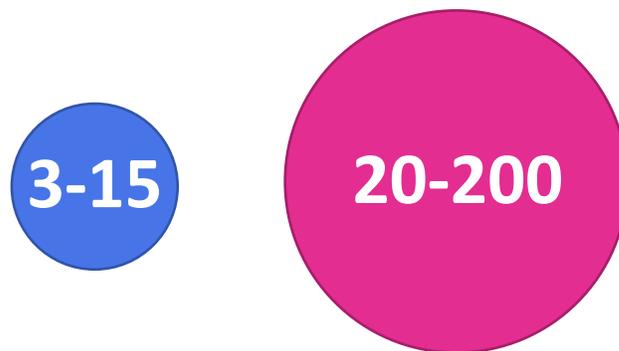
Thank your storyteller for sharing the Word. Ask for a volunteer storyteller for next week. Close in prayer.



Week 2: Know Your Circles

Jesus is 100% God. As God, Jesus is unique in His divinity.

Jesus is also 100% man. As a man, Jesus is like us. He is familiar with our limitations, weaknesses, and sufferings. Jesus understands exhaustion. Jesus has felt severe emotional and physical pain. Jesus knows the gripping pains of grief. Jesus can relate to us in our temptations to sin and to lose faith.



When it comes to discipleship, it is important that we understand that Jesus faced the limitations we face. One of those limitations is the number of deeply personal relationships that Jesus could manage. In His humanity, Jesus could not spend time with every person in the world all at once. So, Jesus focused His efforts on a handful of men. These men were His inner circle. He was more intentional with these men than with anyone else in the world. This didn't mean that Jesus did not minister to others, share His life with others, speak the truth to others, or share the gospel with others. It just meant that these men were the priority of His ministry.

Consider the circles above. The **small circle** represents your capacity for the closest relationships in your life. Depending on your season of life and your capacity, you can probably handle somewhere between 3-15 really close, meaningful relationships. Anything beyond this and you just don't have the bandwidth to keep things close.

The **larger circle** represents your capacity for casual relationships in your life. Depending on your season of life and personal capacity, you can probably handle 20-200 "acquaintances." These people are in your circle of influence. They love you and you love them. They are considered friends, but you lack the bandwidth to maintain a deep relationship with all of them at the same time.

Over the next few weeks, we will look at these circles and consider how we can grow in our intentionality as disciple-makers. Begin to pray and think about this concept now.