

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE OVERCOMER

Week 2: August 26 – September 1

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 (Matt. 10:24-33).

- *Ask, "How has God been using this story in your life and discipleship this past week?"*

Hook Question: Can you share about a time when you told someone the truth and they were offended or didn't like you because of what you said?

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

Will everyone you share Jesus's teachings with receive what you have to say? According to today's story, many people will not. This did not stop Jesus from teaching His disciples that eternal fruit is found in passing on the Word of God to others. Discipleship is more than being kind and relational, it involves sharing the teachings of Jesus with people – even if it costs us friendships or hurts our relationships.

Jesus is always preparing His disciples for the future. He knows that they must be equipped to make disciples by sharing His teachings with others. If they speak His teachings to others, the world is going to hate them, just as the world hates Jesus. Jesus wants His disciples to be equipped to handle the challenges and pressures that come along with making disciples and sharing His teachings with others.

In today's story, Jesus tells a parable that He later explained to His disciples. He knew His disciples would face challenges when it came to sharing His teachings with others. They had to be prepared for the challenges they would face when sharing the Word and making disciples. This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23: *Use different storytellers. Train disciple-makers to share truth.*

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

Read Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23: *Ask the group to read these verses.*

Discussion Questions:

Head
Questions:
Quicker
tempo.

- What can we learn about Jesus in this story?
- How was Jesus preparing His disciples to be disciple-makers in this story?
- What challenges did Jesus know His disciples would face when sharing His Word with others?
- Do you believe you can be a disciple-maker without personally sharing God's Word with others? Why or why not?

- How has your time in this group equipped you to be able to share God's Word with others?
- What do you need to change in your discipleship of others to better follow Jesus' example?
- Who could retell the story to us right here one last time?

Heart Questions:
Slow down & wait!

Ask for a volunteer to tell the Bible story next week.

Close in prayer.

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Don't Share Your Life without Sharing the Word

Jesus shared His life with those He was discipling. He selected twelve so that He could “be with them” (Mark 3:14). Jesus was willing to lay down His life to disciple those men. We must be willing to be selfless and share our lives with those God has called us to disciple.

Jesus also knew that stopping at just sharing relationships with His disciples would accomplish nothing. Being a kind, compassionate, loving, and selfless person is part of making disciples, but those things alone will never make a disciple of Jesus. Making disciples of Jesus always involves passing on the teachings of Jesus to others. Jesus taught His disciples new truth. He helped them understand the Scriptures. He taught them what it meant to be His follower.

Having a good relationship with people is not discipleship. In fact, true discipleship will ruin our relationships with some people! There will *always* be people in this world who reject the teachings of Jesus. As disciple-makers, when we pass on the teachings of Jesus those people will *always* reject us.

So, how can we follow Jesus' example?

1. It starts with relationships. Jesus taught new truth, but He was not detached from His disciples. Jesus was relational and personal with those He was discipling.
2. Relationships and God's Word do mix. In fact, the strongest relationships are formed around God's Word. Yes, some will reject us because we follow the teachings of Jesus. However, there will be some who see what we have in Jesus and will want to know how they can have it, too. Don't wait six or twelve months before you introduce God's Word into the conversation! Be bold! Share new truth all the time, then look around for those who are still hanging around you. Disciple them! Love and pray for those who reject you, but focus on those who are searching for God!
3. Sharing new truth with others requires a strategy. Mixing truth into conversation can be good, but we need a plan to center our thinking and discussion around God's Word in order to make disciples of Jesus. This is where storying comes in. Storying starts by getting God's Word into a person's head. Once it is there, we use questions to move the Word from their head to their hearts. Questions allow us to lead people on a journey of God and self-discovery.
4. Finally, we must be prepared to disagree. When the foundation of relationships is built, we can begin to discuss God's Word with transparency and authenticity. Sometimes those we disciple will be absolutely wrong. To help them grow, we can start by modeling humility and repentance for them. Additionally, we must be ready to lovingly, but clearly disagree with them when what they are believing or saying clearly opposes the Word of God.

Practice relationships, but not apart from the Word of God; otherwise it is niceness, not discipleship.