

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE OVERCOMER

Week 3: September 2-8

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 (Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23).

Hook Question: Can you share about a relationship you have had with a person you are not biologically related to, but you have considered them to be family?

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

Family was one of the highest social obligations to the people who lived during Jesus's time of ministry on the earth. Many of the people of that time believed that their own salvation before God was guaranteed because of their ancestry (they were children of Abraham). In a society that placed family first, Jesus saw things differently.

Jesus does not appear to have the same admiration for the family that those around Him carried. Often, Jesus's teachings about family seem harsh, even alarming! Jesus told a would-be disciple who wanted to bury his deceased father to "Let the dead bury their own dead" (Luke 9:60). He commanded his disciples: Leave parents, siblings, spouse, children – and come be My disciple (Luke 14:25-27).

Did Jesus want to destroy the biological family? No. Other passages in the New Testament show us the value of marriage and parenting. Then what was He saying? Make no mistake: Jesus was saying that nothing, not even blood family, should get in the way of our relationship with Him and our mission to make disciples of Him. Who was Jesus's family? Those who did God's will.

In this story, Jesus had just appointed twelve men to be His disciples. These would be the men He would share His life with for the rest of His ministry on earth. With that in mind, this is where our story begins...

Tell the story from Mark 3:20-21; 31-35: *Use different storytellers. Train disciple-makers to share truth.*

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

Read Mark 3:20-21; 31-35: *Ask the group to read these verses.*

Discussion Questions:

Head
Questions:
Quicker
tempo.

- What challenge in discipleship did Jesus experience with His own biological family in this story?
- What can we learn about Jesus in this story?
- How was Jesus preparing His disciples to be disciple-makers in this story?
- Why do you think considering someone your family is important in a discipleship relationship?
 - How does considering someone else to be family change your relationship with them?
- What is Jesus trying to teach you tonight?
 - How do you need to apply what He is teaching you to your life?
- 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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Relationships with an Agenda

How did Jesus begin His time of ministry on the earth? See if this matches your Bible knowledge:

1. Baptized by John the Baptist
2. Fasted and tempted in the wilderness
3. Went to Galilee with the power of the Holy Spirit

Does this line up so far? We hope so. But what happened next?

Most people think that the next thing Jesus did was call His twelve disciples. Yes, Jesus did call people into relationship and to follow Him from the beginning of His ministry in Galilee; however, He did not appoint the twelve until later on! Why didn't He call the twelve right away?

Before calling the twelve, Jesus spent time building relationships with the people in His community. They were relationships with an agenda.

Why is this important? Because Jesus's strategy for making disciples is reproducible. We can all follow His example. Because this is true, we do not want to miss the important element of being relational with an agenda.

By the time Jesus called His disciples, He had built a circle of influence in the community where He was ministering. Sure, some religious people didn't like Him, but most did. He had made countless efforts to talk to people about the Kingdom of Heaven, minister to sick people, visit people in their homes, eat meals with sinners, serve people, love people, encourage people, and comfort people. Jesus started His discipleship journey by being relational with an agenda.

What was the agenda? Well, Jesus didn't stumble in to His mission to make disciples. From that time of being relational with people, Jesus invited several people into relationship. Of those who responded, Jesus chose twelve of them to be His closest group. With that group, He shared His life. He spent time with them, and He prepared them to disciple others.

That's being relational with an agenda.

How does this apply to you? Go be relational with an agenda! Look for the people God has placed in your life. Make sacrifices to love them, comfort them, and serve them. Invite them into relationship with you. As you do, ask God to show you who He wants you to disciple. Connect them to discipleship with your group, with you personally, or with someone else who wants to make a disciple of Jesus. Be relational, but don't stop there. Disciples aren't made by Christians just being nice to people. Disciples are made as we connect with others relationally and invite them in to a reproducible process where they can grow in their relationship with Jesus and help others do the same.