

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE OVERCOMER

Week 7: September 30 – October 6

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 8:5-13).

Hook Question: Can you share about a time when God spoke to you and it made a special impact on your life?

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

Jesus is always preparing His disciples for the future. The plan of God is to use His disciples to make disciples of others so that the gospel will spread to the ends of the earth. Everything Jesus did with His disciples is designed to help prepare His disciples for the task of discipleship.

The work of discipleship can make us busy. There is so much to be done. In fact, discipleship can require so much effort that we slip into a mindset that the most important work of discipleship is found in our own efforts. No matter how hard I try, I cannot lead someone else to move their heart from being self-centered to being God and others-centered. Even if I do my part perfectly, I cannot change another person's heart. We are dependent on God to move in our hearts and in the hearts of those we are discipling.

In today's story, Jesus is on His way to Jerusalem where He will be killed. Jesus and His disciples stop by the home of a family that Jesus loved dearly. As they go into the home, Jesus begins to share with them. In His sharing, Jesus teaches His disciples a valuable lesson about priorities. This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from Luke 10:38-42: *Use different storytellers. Teach people to share God's Word!*

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

Read Luke 10:38-42: *Ask the group to read these verses.*

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

Head
Questions:
Quicker
tempo.

- What does this story teach us about people?
- What do you learn about Jesus in this story?
- How was Jesus preparing His disciples to make disciples?

Heart &
Hand
Questions:
Slow down &
wait!

- How do you relate to this story?
- What is Jesus trying to teach you right now?
 - How do you need to apply what He is teaching you to your life?
- 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.

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Week 7: Abiding in Christ

I've heard it said that if your goals in your walk with God can be accomplished in your own strength, you have the wrong goals.

Discipling someone else to a place of spiritual maturity so that they willingly lay down their life to follow Jesus and disciple others is a goal well beyond any of our means. Think about it. Which one of us has the power we need to turn a person's heart away from self-centeredness and towards God and others? Who among us is able, through our own skills, efforts, and talents, to cause a person to be willing to give up their life, lay down their comforts, and take on the cause of Christ?

Discipling someone else to be a disciple-maker is a goal beyond our own abilities. We are desperately dependent on God in discipleship.

Have you been satisfied in your discipleship of others recently? Please evaluate yourself...

- **Are you abiding in Christ?** We are all looking for satisfaction. As new creations in Christ, our satisfaction must come from our relationship with Jesus. It is out of the overflow of this relationship that we are able to glorify God by revealing His presence to others. Has your relationship with Jesus been the source from which you invite others into God's presence?
- **Are you praying for those you are discipling?** As we have seen, the work of discipleship is outside our own abilities. We are desperately dependent on God to make disciples. Have you been praying for the people in your group and the people you are discipling by name? Are you begging God to move their hearts from self-centeredness to Him?
- **Are you letting God's Word give life to your soul?** God's Word is powerful to move our hearts towards God and to move the hearts of others towards Him. Our opinions don't carry that same power. Our feelings don't carry that power. Our ideals don't carry that power. Our personal stories don't carry that power. Is God's Word giving you life? Are you walking in the Word? Are you talking about the Word? Are you presenting the Word to others?
- **Are you asking God to show you who to connect with next?** Have you reached a point where you see every social interaction, every new connection, every relationship you have, as an opportunity to engage others with the gospel? Do you carry an agenda with you all the time to help others connect to God, to His people, and to their purpose? How does this need to grow in your life?

Discipleship is intentional. It comes out of the overflow of our relationship with Jesus. This week's story addresses this point head on. Be honest with your group this week. Have you been abiding, or not? Why do you want to abide? What needs to change in your heart so you will abide? Pray. Ask.