

Real-Life Relationships

How do we relate in love to those we disciple?

Week 4: March 3-9

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: *Jesus showed us that living together and sharing life is the best way to make disciples.*

He lived with his guys 24-7 for three years. Practically, we cannot do that! So we do the next best thing – we share our lives with each other by telling detailed stories about what is going on in our lives.

Hook Question: What temptation is your greatest weakness?

Retell Last Week's Story: Joseph sold as a slave (Genesis 39:1-23).

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

We just heard the retelling of last week's story about Joseph at Potiphar's house. That story provides most of the background for today's story.

First, Joseph was sold as a slave by his brothers. Shortly after, Joseph was betrayed by Potiphar's wife and was thrown into prison on false charges. Betrayal. Disappointment. Uncertainty. Loneliness. Joseph felt all these emotions and so many more. Still, God's hand was on Joseph's life. Joseph found favor with the prison keeper and rose to a position of leadership in the prison – even though he was a prisoner himself!

In spite of how he must have felt, Joseph willingly trusted God. He did not let his circumstances define him. Keep that in mind. This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from Genesis 40:1-23: *Use different storytellers. Teach your group to share God's Word.*

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

Read the story from Genesis 40:1-23: *Ask the group to read these verses.*

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

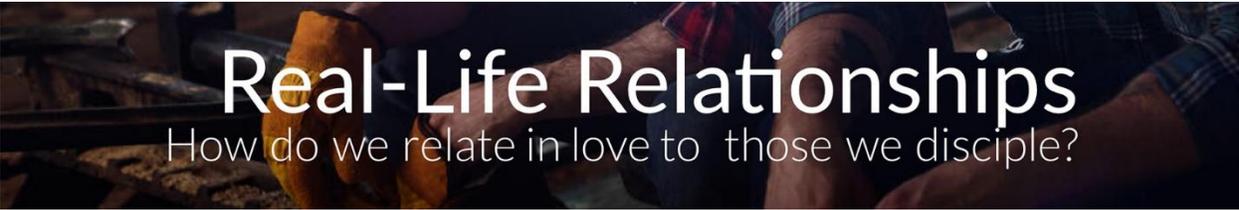
Head
Questions:
Quicker
tempo.

- What do you like or dislike about this story?
- What does this story teach us about people?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What do you learn about relationships through this story?
- How do you relate to this story? Be as transparent as you can.

Heart & Hand
Questions:
Slow down &
wait!

- What do you think God is trying to show you right now? How do you need to change?
- 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 4: Intentional Leadership in Disciple-Making

Getting Others in the Game – Part 2

Last week we encouraged you to get others in the game. The concept is like you being the point guard for a basketball team. You don't have to make every play, but your job is to set up the team to make plays and to win together.

We asked you to consider specific characteristics of the players on your team and evaluate them so that you can help them get in the game. These characteristics included...

- Spiritual gifts
- Passions
- Relational skills
- Special skills
- Experience
- Etc.

Practice Guide

Take a moment to test yourself by completing this exercise. How well can you recognize the abilities of others so that you can encourage them to connect and engage in the game? The following list contains needs that present themselves in a small group environment. These needs offer opportunities for disciples to grow by serving the group and its members. Beside each need, write one or two abilities or aptitudes that an intentional leader might look for in a disciple in order to fit them to that need.

Place to Play	Characteristics or Aptitudes
Someone to facilitate group discussions when the leader is not able to be there.	
Someone to do minor home repair for elderly people in the group or church.	
Someone to visit the people who are in the hospital.	
Someone to organize and lead a prayer night for the group.	
Someone to provide a meal for someone in the group who has recently been through a medical situation.	

There are many more needs that come up in a group setting or in church. God doesn't expect you to meet them all! He wants you to become an intentional leader who sees every need as an opportunity to help get others in the game.

Remember, you are playing point guard. That means you are a player, too! Lead by example. Volunteer in your church. Meet the needs of others. Let others see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. As you go about ministry with others, be sure to invite them into the game. You can accomplish only a limited amount of work for the Kingdom. The greatest impact you can make is identifying and equipping others to minister and to make disciples of Jesus.