

Week 5: March 10-16

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 is the greatest challenge you are facing? (Follow up: How are you feeling about it?)

Retell Last Week's Story: Joseph in prison (Genesis 40:1-23).

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 interpreting dreams in prison. That story provides most of the background for today's story.

Here are a few other points to consider when you hear this story. First, Pharaoh was king of Egypt. He was like a god to them. The Egyptians worshipped many false gods, but they did not worship the One True God. Second, it would help to remember Joseph's childhood dreams before you hear this story. Joseph had dreams of his own and interpretations for those dreams when he was a boy. Finally, Joseph believed that God had not abandoned him in the midst of his suffering. He gave credit to God for His blessings in the midst of suffering.

Last week's story ended with the cupbearer being restored to Pharaoh's courts; however, the cupbearer forgot about Joseph. This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from Genesis 41:1-57: *LONG STORY! Be sure to coach whoever is telling the story this week.*

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

Read the story from Genesis 41:1-57: *Ask the group to read these verses.*

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

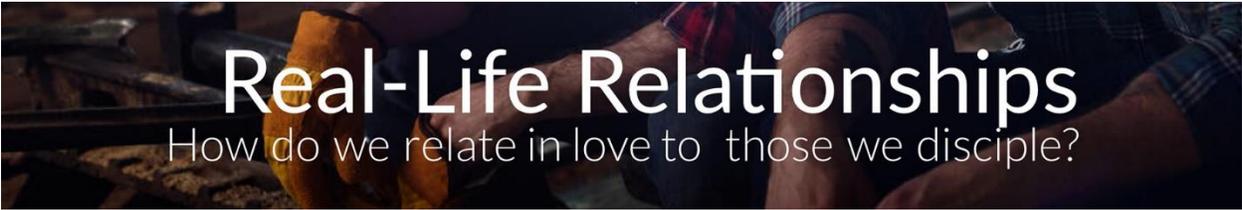
Head Questions: Quicker tempo.

- 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?
- 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.



Real-Life Relationships

How do we relate in love to those we disciple?

Week 5: Intentional Leadership in Disciple-Making

Listening & Asking Great Questions

In the message this Sunday, Pastor Jerry challenged us to grow in our meaningful relationships by evaluating our ability to listen and to ask good questions.

Disciple-makers will hit a wall in their discipleship of others until they grasp and apply this principle. Jesus did not just want His disciples to know Him! Jesus wanted to know His disciples. Because this was the heart of Jesus, Jesus took time to listen and to ask great questions.

How are you doing when it comes to listening to others? Where are you in your own spiritual maturity? Are your conversations more about you and what you think? Or are you intentional to focus on listening to others and asking questions to get to know them better?

Here are three examples of how we can fail to listen well to others...

1. Listening without focus (we hear noise, but we miss the content)
2. Listening for the “gist” (we get the general idea but don’t really listen intently)
3. Listening to respond or fix (we listen, but only so we can put in our two cents)

Which one(s) do you struggle with most? Spiritual maturity in meaningful relationships means learning to take our thoughts captive and listening to really get to know the other person.

How about asking great questions? Do you know how to lead others to transparency? Here are four questions to help you become more relational with others...

1. What is the most difficult challenge you are facing right now?
2. How are you feeling about that challenge?
3. What is your greatest fear?
4. What do you want to see happen?

Intentional leaders are not self-focused; they are God and other’s focused. Intentional leaders make time in important relationships to listen. Ask great questions to discover more and to encourage transparency.

Real-life relationships are the tracks that effective discipleship runs on. We cannot expect to make disciples like Jesus did unless we learn how to be relational like He was. Take time to pause and pray. Ask God to help you be more intentional to make time to listen and to ask great questions to those you are discipling. Start with your family and your small group family.