

Real-Life Relationships

How do we relate in love to those we disciple?

Week 6: March 17-23

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: *A real-life relationship is a relationship where you give someone the right to know everything about you, and they give you the right to know everything about them. Real-life relationships are vital to our spiritual growth. Our small group is a place where we want to engage in real-life relationships with others. We start by being transparent in group and then intentional outside of group.*

Hook Question: How would you summarize what your family was like when you were growing up?

Retell Last Week's Story: Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dreams (Genesis 41:1-57).

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

We are going to test our storyteller this week! This part of Joseph's story covers two chapters in the book of Genesis. It is really part one of a two-part story. This is the part of the story where Joseph's family re-enters the picture.

Before we continue Joseph's story, let's review his story from memory. Joseph's story starts with Joseph being Jacob's favorite son. Let's pause reading the background and try to remember the main events from his story from that point until last week. *[Pause and rebuild Joseph's story together.]*

Now that we have rebuilt Joseph's story from memory, we are ready to continue with this week's story. Again, this week's story covers two chapters and is long. Listen for the main events as we hear the story. We will rebuild those main events then read the Scripture to pick up on the details. The story this week will kind of end with a cliff hanger. We will finish the last two chapters next week in group.

So remember: Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dreams. He was then promoted to be the second in command of all Egypt. Joseph began preparing for the famine. The famine came and Joseph was ready. People from all around Egypt heard that Egypt had food, so they went there for relief. This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from Genesis 42:1-43:34: *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 42:1-43:34: *Ask the group to read these verses.*

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

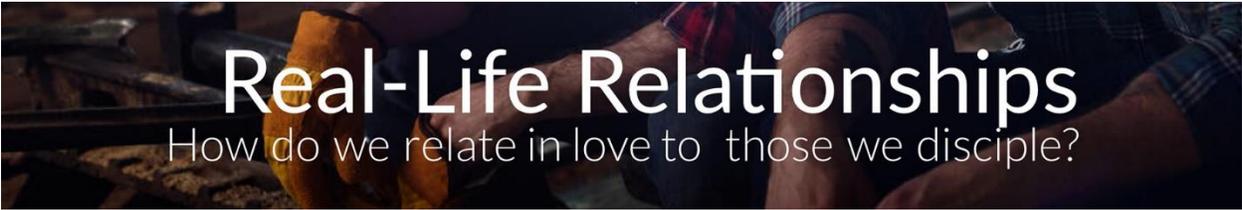
Head Questions: Quicker tempo.

- 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?

Heart & Hand Questions: Slow down & wait!

- Like Joseph in this story, what is something difficult in your past that is hard for you to revisit?
- How do you relate to this story? What do you think God is trying to show you?
- 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.



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Week 6: Intentional Leadership in Disciple-Making

Learning to Listen and Follow Up

Today's coaching guide will serve more as a devotional/bible study. The goal of this week's guide is to help you discover an important listening skill in discipleship that is necessary for both real-life discipleship relationships and small group leaders.

Read the following story from Mark 9:33-37...

33 They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" 34 But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

35 Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all."

36 He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, 37 "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

Consider these questions...

1. When did Jesus discover that his disciples were arguing on the road?
2. When did he ask them about it?
3. What do you think the relational environment was like on the road?
4. How do you think the relational environment might have changed by the time they were at the house?

Take a moment to notice Jesus's example in listening and following up in this story...

Sometimes those you are discipling will say something that you know off. Jesus knew that His disciples' view of the Kingdom of Heaven was off. He knew that He needed to address the problem. However, Jesus waited until the right moment. When you are in small group or discipling someone and they say something that is off, the tendency is to jump right in and fix. Next time that happens, pause. Take more time to listen. Ask a follow up question. Give them a chance to share more about the situation or to feel the gentle conviction of the Holy Spirit.

The argument that Jesus's disciples had on the road required follow up. Sometimes something said in group or in discipleship will require follow up because of the nature of what was said. When that happens, take a note from Jesus. Choose your moment wisely. Let the situation play out and wait until the best time to address it. **DO NOT NEGLECT IT!** Jesus didn't let it go.

Learn this skill and you will grow as a disciple-maker and coach of others.