

Real-Life Relationships

How do we relate in love to those we disciple?

Week 2: February 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 sharing life with a person that you give the right to know everything about you and they give you the right to know everything about them. Our goal in this group is to form real-life relationships. One of the ways we form these relationships is by sharing transparently.*

Hook Question: What are the signs of a relationship that has grown into a very deep and real relationship?

Retell Last Week's Story: Joseph and his dreams (Genesis 37:1-11).

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

We will continue our character study on the life of Joseph this week. Last week's story provides the background to this week's story.

Here are a few additional reminders about the setting for this story. Joseph was the great-grandson of Abraham. God established His covenant promise with Abraham and his descendants. God promised to multiply his offspring into a mighty nation, to give them a land where they could dwell, and to bless all the nations of the earth through them. This promise was ultimately fulfilled in the establishment of the nation of Israel and the arrival of Jesus, the Son of God, who was born a descendant of Abraham.

The promise to Abraham was passed down to his son, Isaac; and from Isaac to Jacob; and from Jacob to his twelve sons. Joseph was one of those twelve sons. You have heard the story of Joseph's favor with his father and of his dreams about his family. Obviously, those events stirred up some jealousy and bitterness in the hearts of Joseph's brothers. With that in mind, this is where our story begins...

Tell the story from Genesis 37:12-36: *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 37:12-36: *Ask the group to read these verses.*

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

Head
Questions:
Quicker
tempo.

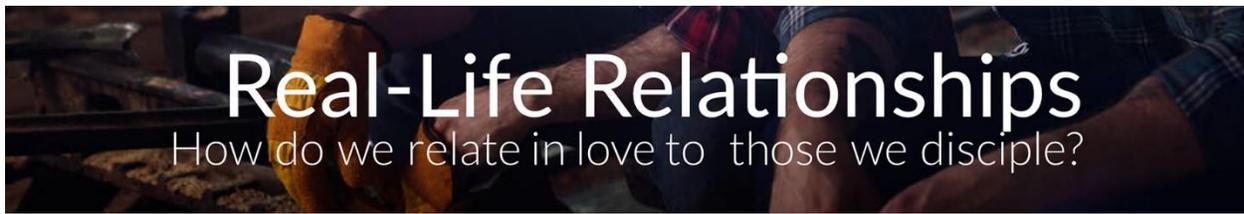
- What do you like or dislike about this story?
- What does this story teach us about people?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What does this story teach us about relationships?

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 2: Intentional Leadership in Disciple-Making

Learning to Listen

In small group, we have guidelines to help us be relational. Pastor Jerry showed us this Sunday how those guidelines can extend beyond the group meeting to help us form relational habits with others. If you missed the message, be sure to catch up online.

One of our guidelines for group is to listen. We have some practical ways to help us do this (i.e. – pause, silence, don't fix, don't rescue, etc.). Intentional disciple-makers make it their personal goal to develop the skill of listening. They understand that listening is key to relationship.

Jim Putman recently released an article about five types of listeners:

1. Listen without focus
2. Listen for the gist
3. Listen to respond
4. Listen to hear
5. Listen to understand

If we want to become great listeners we must be motivated to listen intently, watch for cues to deeper issues, and allow the Holy Spirit to bring clear direction and insight. One of the hardest parts about listening is learning to be patient. So often we want to jump in and fix the problem or share truth right away. This is often a relationship killer. They don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.

Take a moment to [read Jim's article](#) to determine where you would rate yourself as a listener. Then take one minute to reflect on one way you can grow as a listener in small group and in your important relationships this week. Tell someone close to you what kind of listener you think you are and see if they agree or have another perspective for you to consider.