

Introduction

The Win

To understand the vision for participating in a Mentoring Group: The participants will commit to participate in a Mentoring Group for 6 months to a year. Within 6 months to a year, participants are to pray about beginning their own Mentoring Group.

Celebrate Faith Steps

Ask people to share the steps they have taken this week to explore faith or to help others explore faith. This might be related to what you have learned from EXPLORE THE BIBLE this past week. It might have come from something that happened with your family, co-worker, or friend. How have you heard God speaking and acted on it? As the leader, you may need to model this to encourage others to speak up.

Jesus' Relational Process

In his ministry on earth, Jesus engaged large crowds of people, smaller groups, and then his close group of friends. In a similar way, we desire to move people into smaller and smaller groups for the purpose of seeing greater relational effectiveness and growth.

Our Relational Process

Large Group Gathering

We gather together with our whole church family to worship God. Some community is experienced, but the main thrust of the worship gathering is to explore faith (grow in our relationship with Jesus).

Small Group Gathering

We gather together in smaller groups of 10 to 18 people to experience community and explore faith. Some steps are taken to expand God's mission through serving the needs of those inside the group and serving those outside the group through service projects.

Smaller Group Gathering

Mentoring Groups gather together in groups of 3 to 6 people to experience community, explore faith, and expand God's mission. Mentoring Groups are a place for ...

- direct mentoring of Christ-followers who are beginning to take faith steps.
- encouragement (invitation) and invited accountability (challenge).
- answering two questions each week: What is God saying to me? What will I do about it?

High Invitation / High Challenge

In less than three years, Jesus was able to mentor a group of men, most of whom no one else would have chosen, and mentored them to DO and to BE like Him in such a way that, when released, they would change the course of human history forever. ([Building a Discipling Culture](#) by Mike Breen, pg. 16)

How did Jesus do this? He was able to masterfully balance relational **invitation** and **challenge**. This is the type of relational process that we would like to foster in our Mentoring Groups.

Read the Passage to Determine What God Is Saying

Ask someone in your group to read Matthew 16:13-28. (page 538)

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

¹⁴ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others, Elijah; still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

¹⁵ "But you," he asked them, "who do you say that I am?"

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

¹⁷ Jesus responded, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will have been loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he gave the disciples orders to tell no one that he was the Messiah.

²¹ From then on Jesus began to point out to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and scribes, be killed, and be raised the third day. ²² Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, "Oh no, Lord! This will never happen to you!"

²³ Jesus turned and told Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me because you're not thinking about God's concerns but human concerns."

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of me will find it. ²⁶ For what will it benefit someone if he gains the whole world yet loses his life? Or what will anyone give in exchange for his life? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will reward each according to what he has done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Retell the Passage to Highlight What God Is Saying

Q1 – According to verse 15, rather than focusing on what other people were saying about him, what did Jesus ask Peter?

Who do you say that I am?

Q2 – As seen in verse 17, how did Jesus encourage Peter after his response?

He told him that he was blessed because he listened to God in heaven.

Q3 – How did Jesus empower Peter in verses 18 and 19?

He told Peter that he would use him to build his church. He told Peter that he would give him the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

Q4 – In verse 23, how did Jesus challenge Peter's thinking?

He stated that Peter was not listening to what God was saying; instead, he was using human reasoning.

Relate the Passage to Determine What I Should Do about It

Q1 – How would you answer Jesus' question, "Who do you say I am?" Who is Jesus to you? How does this affect your daily actions?

Q2 – On a daily basis, how can God speak to us? Share about an experience where you sensed God leading you to do something and how you responded.

Before reading question 3 please share with you group: Invitation is about being invited into a relationship where you have access to a person's life and all the safety, love, and encouragement that reside there. (Building a Discipling Culture by Mike Breen, pg. 18)

Q3 – Who in your life can you share these experiences with? As Jesus encouraged Peter, who encourages you in this daily process?

Q4 – As Jesus empowered Peter, who in your life empowers you to carry out Jesus' mission for your life?

Before reading question 5 please share with your group: In accepting the invitation to have a relationship with Jesus, you are also accepting the challenge that comes with it, the challenge both to determine what God is saying and what you need to do about it. (Building a Discipling Culture by Mike Breen, pg. 18)

Q5 – As Jesus challenged Peter, who do you invite into your life to challenge your thinking? Who do you run ideas by? Who will speak lovingly, but honestly into your life?

CHALLENGE and PRAY

Challenge your Mentoring Group with the following faith steps. Then, ask for prayer requests and pray with your group.

EXPLORE FAITH

Use the EXPLORE THE BIBLE guide to help you daily determine what God is saying to you and what you are going to do about it. Then come willing to share next week.

EXPERIENCE COMMUNITY

Pray for the people in your Mentoring Group and communicate with them this week.

EXPAND MISSION

Begin to pray for those in your sphere of influence that might not be Christ-followers.

Use the EXPLORE FAITH STUDY to get into spiritual conversations with someone in your sphere of influence. If you don't know what this is or have never been through it, ask your group leader to walk through it with you.

GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS: