



NORTHSTAR CHURCH | THE DISCIPLESHIP INITIATIVE | SESSION 2
LEADER'S GUIDE

● Introduction

- Review homework from last week.
- Invite them to share what was significant in their relationship with Jesus.
- Hold them lovingly, graciously accountable for the homework.
- Make sure they understand the *why*.

● Review Discipleship Wheel

- Intimacy: the foundational concept.
 - A love relationship with Jesus.
 - "If you have trouble hearing God speak, you are in trouble at the very heart of your Christian experience." (Henry Blackaby)
 - If intimacy is missing, everything will feel wrong.
- Humility
 - Honesty and transparency before God and others.
- Obedience
 - Why do you obey God?
 - We must obey God if we love him.
- Influence
 - The result: allows us to make disciples in an authentic and genuine way.



Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think the order of these elements are important?
2. Which aspects of the wheel are you the most and least comfortable with?

- Jude 1:20-21 **(have someone read)**
 - *"But you, dear friends, as you build yourselves up in your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting expectantly for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ for eternal life."*
(Jude 1.20-21)
- **What does it mean to "keep yourself in the love of God"?**
 - **Walking closely with Jesus.**
 - **Loving to love him.**

What we know about God comes not from within but from the Word of God.

● Luke 15:11-32

- **Divide up and have everyone read.**

● Intimacy

1. What hindered intimacy in the life of each son?
2. How would you define intimacy with God?

For more reading: www.dontgo.be/intimacy

● Luke 15:11-32 Follow Up Questions

- What did each son prize over their relationship with the Father?

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● Leader Notes

- The younger son valued wealth, power, and influence, and the older son valued performance and doing the right thing over their relationship with the Father.
- Both sons did not grasp who their Father really was.
- As the Father pursued the sons, so God pursues us.
- God takes the initiative in our relationship.

● The intentionality of intimacy

"While it is true that apart from Christ we can do nothing, it is also true, that if we do nothing it will be apart from Christ." (Dallas Willard)

- **God has been intentional in developing an intimate relationship with us, so we must be intentional about growing that relationship with him.**
- Time
 - **What time of the day is best for you to spend with God? Do you have a time set aside each day?**
- Proximity
 - **What place helps you feel at peace and able to commune with God?**
- Communication
 - **What are some practical things you can do to help you speak and hear from God?**
- Experiences
 - **Share with others your experiences with God.**
- The priority of the Bible
 - **Scripture must be a part of your time with God.**

*"The Holy Scriptures are our letters from home." (**Augustine of Hippo**)*

● An Exercise

- Read Psalm 119 in its entirety and look for what it says about who God is and what he does. These can be in the form of blessings, promises, statements about God, etc.
- This should be completed outside of group time.
- There are some examples below, feel free to go beyond these.

| Psalm 119 | Blessings Found |
|--|-----------------|
| "I have treasured your word in my heart so that I may not sin against you." (11) | |
| "your decrees are my delight and my counselors." (24) | |
| "I am weary from grief; strengthen me through your word." (28) | |
| "I delight in your commands, which I love." (47) | |
| "Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are always with me." (98) | |
| "How sweet your word is to my taste — sweeter than honey in my mouth." (103) | |
| "I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every false way." (104) | |

● A HINT OF THINGS TO COME

- Scripture, prayer, spiritual disciplines

● BEFORE NEXT WEEK

- Read John 12:44 -17:26
- Continue praying for one another daily.
 - Get together with one another outside of group this week. Pray with them and share your faith story with one another. No more than 5 minutes/story.
 - **If you have a one-on-one group, take another time to meet up during the week, or work this assignment into your existing group time.**
- Do some research and discern a Bible reading plan that you will follow this week. Be prepared to share at your table next week why you chose it.
 - **Some possible resources:**
 - **YouVersion**
 - **Olive Tree Bible App**
 - **The Bible Project**
- Continue praying for three non-Christians you know daily.
- Set up a meeting over coffee or a meal with one non-Christian you know during *next two weeks*. Just talk. Pray ahead of time and be prepared to share your story.