

This guide is intended to help you be better prepared to make disciples in your small group. It is based on the Sunday sermon listed in the top right corner. If you missed Sunday, make sure you listen to the sermon before your small group meeting. The messages are also on our website.

Prayerfully considering these questions will help equip you to practice mutual ministry with your family at Vertical. While it's not likely that all of these questions will be asked during your small group meeting, we believe that your personal walk with Christ will be strengthened as you meditate upon the truths that God is teaching you through His Word.

1. What mistake did David make in his interaction with Ziba? How did this impact Mephibosheth? Why is it so tempting to make snap judgments when we receive partial or painful information about others?
2. Think of a recent situation where you rushed to judgment. How might "making excuses for the person" have changed your response?
3. Pastor Joe said, "David's peace was found in having his eyes fixed on Yahweh." How does focusing on God change our response to criticism?
4. Pastor Joe gave five practices for maintaining hope (Remember God's past faithfulness, Fix your eyes on Jesus, Pray like David, Remember the gospel, Live in community) Which of these is hardest for you? Why? Which comes most naturally?
5. How would your relationships change if you truly believed that every disappointment is an opportunity to become more like Christ?
6. Why is it spiritually significant that David saw his suffering as potentially coming from God's hand rather than simply as an attack from Shimei?
7. When facing disappointment or betrayal, how do you discern between worldly counsel that 'seems right' and God's wisdom that may appear foolish or weak?
8. How does remembering that you are 'worse than others know' but fully loved by God through the gospel free you from being offended when criticized?
9. In what current situation are you tempted to follow human wisdom and self-protection rather than choosing grace, humility, hope, and obedience to God's way?
10. How was humility defined in the sermon? In what ways should you grow in humility? Consider your relationships. Which ones need a humble response from you?