

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. When you succeed, who do you want to celebrate you? What does your answer reveal about the nature of your ambition?
2. Your ambition is always directed at what you treasure most. What does your ambition reveal about what you actually treasure?
3. Looking at the three characteristics of selfish ambition (positions for prominence, exploits for advantage, deceives for success), which one do you most recognize in yourself? Be specific.
4. How does understanding your identity in Christ (chosen, loved, blessed with every spiritual blessing) free you from the need to position yourself for prominence?
5. Think of a current ambition or goal you're pursuing. Test it with the five questions: ***Does this glorify God? Does this serve people? Can I pursue this with integrity? Does this build unity or division? Can I pursue this without neglecting my primary responsibilities?*** What did you discover?
6. Where are you most tempted to spin your ambition to make it sound spiritual when it's really about you?
7. For some, ambition is a way to validate or measure up. Why is this counterintuitive for a believer?
8. Read James 3:16. Describe a time when you felt jealous of someone else's success or opportunity. How did that jealousy shape your ambition in that situation, and what would healthy ambition have looked like instead?
9. How can worldly standards shape our ambition? What would those ambitions look like if they were based on kingdom standards?