



ENGAGE

Break the Ice: (The purpose of these first questions is to help your group open up. Please don't feel like you have to ask each question. You may even have a better question. Once you feel that the group is engaged, move on to the "Inspire" section.)

- What relationships in your life—positive or negative—have shaped the person you are today?
- What did God teach you during the message this weekend? Did anything in particular stand out?

Prayer: Take some time to pray for God's Spirit to speak to your group through His Word.

INSPIRE

(Since the group may need time to process each question, don't let silence scare you. Try to avoid filling the space with unnecessary explanation or moving on from the question too quickly.)

1. Read Proverbs 13:20 and Proverbs 22:24-25. Jesse stated that a major reason why relationships are incredibly important is because relationships shape us.
 - In your life, how have you been blessed by walking with wise people?
 - Has there ever been a time in your life where you've suffered harm because of the people who were closest to you?
 - Have you ever been friends with someone like the person described in Proverbs 22:24-25? What was the outcome?
 - In verse 25, Solomon writes, "or you may learn his ways and get yourself ensnared." What are the "snares" of hanging around angry people?
2. Read Proverbs 17:17, 18:24, and 25:19. Our relationships support us. When life gets hard, who is there for you?
 - Identify the top three most influential people in your life, and share with the group.
 - Do these people push you closer to Jesus or further away from Him? Explain.
 - Do they offer encouragement or discouragement? How so?
3. Read James 1:19-21.
 - What jumps out at you from these verses?
 - According to these verses, what has the power to really change us? Why does that matter?
4. True wisdom is found in Jesus. Read John 15:12-13.
 - Jesus' instruction for His disciples was to reflect His love for them in their relationships with others. In other words, our love should look like Jesus. What did that love look like and what does it look like in your own relationships?
 - Jesse said that we can reflect Jesus' love by being present and engaged. What can you do better toward being present and engaged in your relationships?
5. Read Philippians 2:1-8.
 - What challenges you from these verses?
 - What situation in your life right now makes it hard for you to imitate Christ's humility? How can you change that?



EQUIP

(These questions will challenge your group members to apply the study to their daily lives. It is highly important that you go over this section with your group each week for the group study to be a success. Set aside 10-15 minutes at the end of your study to go over this section.)

When it comes to relationships, sacrifice is the rule, not the exception. Sacrifice defines our healthy relationships.

- In what relationship(s) in your life do you need to make “sacrifice the rule, not the exception”?
- In what ways can Jesus be glorified in your relationships?

Prayer:

Take some time to pray over each group member’s identified action steps and life issues.

Equip Your Mind:

“Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.” (Proverbs 13:20)