CHAPTER 11: YOUNG DAVID - FROM SHEPHERD TO KING (p. 6-11)

PASSAGES COVERED: 1 Samuel 16-18; 24;31; 2 Samuel 6; 22; 1 Chron.17; Psalm 59, Psalm 18

OVERVIEW: God looks on hearts not appearances as He refines and prepares people for His purposes. In our lower story we do not see things as God sees them from his Upper story. This includes appearances, circumstances and timing.

Chapter 11 Homework (p. 9-10)

CHAPTER 12: KING DAVID - THE TRIALS OF A KING (p. 12-17)

PASSAGES COVERED: 2 Samuel 11-12; 18-19; 1 Chronicles 22;29; Psalm 23;32;51

OVERVIEW: When we respond to God in our lower story He uses our lives - both the good and bad - to show His presence and character to those around us. In the good and the bad, David shows us God's upper story heart. Through forgiveness relationships are restored even though consequences may remain.

Chapter 12 Homework (p. 15-16)
CHAPTER 13: SOLOMON - THE KING WHO HAD IT ALL (p. 18-23)

PASSAGES COVERED: 1 Kings 1-8; 10-11; 2 Chronicles 5-7; Proverbs 1-3; 6; 20-21

OVERVIEW: How we live our lower story matters. God gives wisdom and grace from His upper story perspective. We need His help to stay strong and finish well.

CHAPTER 13 HOMEWORK - (p. 21-22)

HEAD, HEART, & HANDS (p. 24)

DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS: THE 5 STAGES OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH (p. 25)

DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS: A DESCRIPTIVE BREAKDOWN (p. 26)

NOTE TO LEADERS:

• This curriculum has a ‘Leader Prep Guide’ page before each week to help you prepare for group each week and to follow-up after group time.
• Participant Guides will be on a different page than the Leader Guide. Participant Pages will appear in parentheses in red.
DEFINITION OF TERMS

As we go through The Story there are a couple terms that we will be using that would be good for all of us to start with a similar definition.

UPPER STORY:

The upper story is how God is at work bringing about His plan. God’s heart and purpose is to have a people who dwell with Him eternally and proclaim Him to the world as they are in relationship with each other. This is the core of His upper story.

LOWER STORY:

The lower story is how God’s plan is being worked out in human history – including the human stories we read in the Bible AND in our own lives. The Bible tells of how His upper story is worked out in the time and space of human history. This lower story gives us guidance and examples as we live our lower story in this slice of history.
THE PURPOSE OF SMALL GROUPS

We are committed to a small group ministry as one of the most effective means of building relationships, creating authentic community, stimulating spiritual growth, and developing servant leaders within the Body of Christ

VISION

“Our passion is to know Christ and to make Him known.”

“Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.” - John 15:4

Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

- Matthew 22:37-39

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

- Matthew 28:18-20

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

- Acts 2:42-47

GROUP GUIDELINES

Setting some basic group guidelines for how we will honor one another in our group discussions is important.

• Ground rules give boundaries for people to operate within.
• They help with the flow and pace of the discussions.
• They help us value one another.
• They help people to be more comfortable sharing deep and meaningful things.

Transparency: It’s difficult to love someone God has called us to love without really knowing them in a deep and meaningful way. We’re encouraging you to share from your heart -- to let down your walls, so that others can really know you. This isn’t just struggles and fears, but also the positives -- dreams, hopes, answered prayers, etc. We understand it is easier for some, and we’ll respect your boundaries.

No Convincing: Share your opinions -- a difference in opinion is welcome. However, please don’t try to convince others to your way of thinking.

Listen: Let’s value one another during the discussions by really listening to what is being shared. Hear what’s being said -- don’t be thinking about what you’re going to say next or how you’re going to respond -- really listen. Be aware of how much you are talking -- we want to give everyone a chance to share in the group.

Pause: After someone shares, give a pause to allow the group to feel the weight of what was just shared and to fully consider it before the next person shares. This also provides the opportunity for the person sharing to continue their thought without feeling rushed.

Don’t Fix: Let’s try to hear what people are sharing without trying to fix them. If they want your advice, they’ll ask for it. (It’s okay to ask permission to enter in.)

Don’t Rescue: When someone is sharing something deeply personal and/or painful, there can be a tendency to try to make them feel better about themselves or the situation. Often this will cause people to stop sharing and results in their not going as deeply as they might have gone. Resist the temptation to rescue people.

No Cross-talk: Be considerate of others as they are sharing -- don’t be having side conversations.

Focus on Yourself: This is one time that it is all about you. It is easy to talk about the issues of others (friends, family members, teachers, bosses); but in this group, it is important to talk about yourself. Try to use “I” statements rather than “them”, “us”, “we”, etc.

Confidentiality: What happens in small group, stays in small group. Everyone needs to feel they can share openly without fear that what they say will become public knowledge. This builds trust and strengthens relationships.
Chapter 11  [LEADER PREP GUIDE]
Young David: From Shepherd To King

BEFORE GROUP: Your role as a leader before group starts
- Read Chapter 11 from The Story. This will help if you need to re-word any questions to better suit your group. Choose the questions you want the group to discuss.
- Read the necessary passages throughout the week
- Recognize what God is showing you.
- Do you know where each person in the group is spiritually?
  (* See page 25-26: spiritually dead, infant, child, young adult, parent)
- What is your part as you walk with them?

PRAYER TIME:
- Will you be breaking out into men’s and women’s groups?
- Who will lead each group? What prep do you need to do with them?
  __________________________________ (Men)
  __________________________________ (Women)

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Grab the weekend bulletin and choose the top 2-3 announcements that would benefit your group members. Also, use this time to give any announcements that are specific to your home group.
1. _______________________________________________________
2. _______________________________________________________
3. _______________________________________________________

SERMON: Awareness & Preparation
- Find the sermon based questions and copy them into this book.
- What did I hear in this week’s sermon?
- How might this week’s sermon hit each person in my group?

AFTER GROUP: Your role as a leader after group
- Who am I intentionally praying for this week? Who needs me to pray with them?
- Who do I need to call this week?
- Do I need to have a follow up conversation with someone from group this week?
- Who was absent from group or from service? Determine the next step you need to take to help them stay connected.
- Who am I inviting to group? How am I regularly encouraging group members to invite unconnected people? Is my group growing a heart for lost people?
DURING THE WEEK: Read the chapter during the week before the sermon and small group. Make time daily with God to know Him and His heart through time in His Word, prayer and reflection. Below chapter 11 is separated into five days of reading.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHOSEN</th>
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GROUP TIME:
- Opening Prayer
- Announcements
- Guidelines

GETTING TO KNOW YOU:
- A. Who is your favorite relative and why?
- B. What is the physical feature you like most about yourself? Why?

DISCUSS: From the Chapter/ Into the Bible
- (Read: 1 Sam 16:6-7) Why did Samuel believe Eliab was the Lord’s anointed one? What did the Lord say He was looking at in a king?
- (Read 1 Sam. 24:1-10) David spared Saul’s life rather than getting revenge for all the mistreatment Saul had shown toward David. Describe a time when you had a choice to honor God or take revenge on someone for something they did to you. Which did you choose and how did it end up?
- (Read 2 Sam. 6:12-23) From the story of David bringing the Ark home, what can we learn about worshipping the Lord? Would you describe your own worship as reserved or infectious?
DISCUSS: From the DVD
• Randy mentioned that from the time David was anointed as God’s chosen one to be the next king of Israel “God was with him”. What are some examples of God being with David?
• David recorded in his journal (Psalm 22:6-7) about feeling unworthy, and as Randy described, like a failure. Tell of a time when you felt unworthy of a task God called you to do. What does God look at to determine man’s worth?
• Does your life point to the Messiah? Why or Why not? What is something you can do intentionally shepherd others to trust in God?

DISCUSS: From the Sermon
1. _______________________________________________________
2. _______________________________________________________
3. _______________________________________________________

DISCUSS: From the Homework (page 9-10)
• What is something that stuck out to you from the homework?
• Is there a question or questions that you need answered from the homework?

PRAYER:
• Write down group prayer request and praises/celebrations on the following page.
• Remind your group that these requests must remain confidential in order to build a community of trust.
• Take time to ask for personal requests, focusing on each member and his or her needs.
• Break your group up by gender if you feel members will be more open and honest.

NEXT WEEK’S READING:
• The Story: Chapter 12
• Bible passages: 2 Samuel 11-12; 18-19;
  1 Chronicles 22; 29;
  Psalm 23; 32; 51
1. What insight, principle or observation from this weekend's messages did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

2. Read 1 Samuel 16-18
   a. What did Samuel fear when the Lord asked him to go to Jesse to anoint a new king?
   b. Of all 7 of the sons of Jesse who passed before Samuel, only 3 were named. What were their names?
   c. Why didn’t David want to wear King Saul's armor to face Goliath? What did he wear instead?
   d. Who loved David as his own soul? And what did he give David as a covenant?

3. Read 1 Samuel 24; Psalm 59
   a. How many men did Saul send to find David in the En Gedi?
   b. What two things did Saul make David promise not to do to his family?
   c. Why does David ask the Lord to spare his enemies in Psalm 59?
   d. How are David's actions different than his enemies in Psalm 59?
4. Read 2 Samuel 22, 1 Samuel 31

   b. After Saul fell on his own sword, what did the Philistines do with his armor? What did they do with his body?

5. Read 2 Samuel 6; 1 Chron. 17
   a. What was David’s concern about where the Ark was being housed?

   b. What happened to Uzzah on the threshing floor? Why?

   c. How was Michal punished for her reaction to David for his praise of dancing for the Lord?

6. Read Psalm 18
   1. What inspired David to write Psalm 18?

   2. What did God deliver David from?

   3. How did David view himself and his relationship with God?
### PRAYER

Date: _____/_____/

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Chapter 12  [LEADER PREP GUIDE]
King David: The Trials Of A King

BEFORE GROUP: Your role as a leader before group starts

- Read Chapter 12 from The Story. This will help if you need to re-word any questions to better suit your group. Choose the questions you want the group to discuss.
- Read the necessary passages throughout the week
- Recognize what God is showing you.
- Do you know where each person in the group is spiritually? (*) See page 25-26: spiritually dead, infant, child, young adult, parent)
- What is your part as you walk with them?

PRAYER TIME:

- Will you be breaking out into men’s and women’s groups?
- Who will lead each group? What prep do you need to do with them?

_________________________________ (Men)
_________________________________ (Women)

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Grab the weekend bulletin and choose the top 2-3 announcements that would benefit your group members. Also, use this time to give any announcements that are specific to your home group.

1. _______________________________________________________
2. _______________________________________________________
3. _______________________________________________________

SERMON: Awareness & Preparation

- Find the sermon based questions and copy them into this book.
- What did I hear in this week’s sermon?
- How might this week’s sermon hit each person in my group?

AFTER GROUP: Your role as a leader after group

- Who am I intentionally praying for this week? Who needs me to pray with them?
- Who do I need to call this week?
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GROUP TIME:

- Opening Prayer
- Announcements
- Guidelines

GETTING TO KNOW YOU:

- What types of consequences did you have growing up?
- Have you ever told a lie that ended up being really embarrassing? What was it?

WATCH THE DVD and/or READ Chapter 12 Together

DISCUSS: From the Chapter/ Into the Bible

- (Read 2 Sam. 11) Who did David sin against, Bathsheba, Uriah, or God? Discuss examples from the Bible to illustrate your point.
- (Read Psalm 32) David joyously expressed his thanks to God for the forgiveness he received. How should we show our gratitude to God for His forgiveness, and knowing that He forgives us, how should it affect our relationship with those who have hurt us?
- (Read Psalm 51) What part of this passage resonates with you? Why?
DISCUSS: From the DVD

• Both Saul and David sinned against God, but God continued to revere David. Why is David revered by God after his sin, but not Saul?
• Nathan had earned the right to speak boldly into David's life. Why is it so important for you to have someone who can speak into your life boldly?
• Randy mentioned that it is when we are at our best or experiencing great success, that we are most susceptible of falling into sin. What is something you can do to keep from getting sucked into a cycle of sin?

DISCUSS: From the Sermon

1. _______________________________________________________
2. _______________________________________________________
3. _______________________________________________________ 

DISCUSS: From the Homework (page 15-16)

• What is something that stuck out to you from the homework?
• Is there a question or questions that you need answered from the homework?

PRAYER:

• Write down group prayer request and praises/celebrations on the following page.
• Remind your group that these requests must remain confidential in order to build a community of trust.
• Take time to ask for personal requests, focusing on each member and his or her needs.
• Break your group up by gender if you feel members will be more open and honest.

NEXT WEEK’S READING:

• The Story: Chapter 13
• Bible passages: 1 Kings 1-8;10-11;
  2 Chronicles 5-7;
  Proverbs 1-3; 6; 20-21
1. What insight, principle or observation from this weekend's messages did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

2. Read 2 Samuel 11-12
   a. How did David meet Bathsheba?

   b. How did David order Uriah to be killed?

   c. How did Nathan rebuke David for his behavior?

3. Read Psalm 51; 32
   a. What is the outcome of God's forgiveness in Psalm 51?

   b. Since God does not seem to delight in sacrifices and burnt offerings, what does David offer as an offering that is pleasing to God?

   c. What gift did God give David in Psalm 32?

4. Read 2 Samuel 18-19
   a. When King David said he would go forth to battle Absalom in Gilead, the people insisted that he remain in the city. Why?
b. In the battle between David’s men and Israel’s troops, what devoured more people than swords?

c. What were the three things Mephibosheth had not done from the time David left Jerusalem until the day he returned safely? Why did he not do those three things?

5. Read 1 Chron. 22; 29
   a. Why didn’t David leave the preparations of building the Temple to his son Solomon?

   b. What was the spiritual reminder David gave to Solomon?

   c. What does the Lord want to find in a person when he/she is tested?

   d. How long was David king over Israel?

6. Read Psalm 23
   a. Write the 23rd Psalm in whatever creative way you can.
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GROUP TIME:
- Opening Prayer
- Announcements
- Guidelines

GETTING TO KNOW YOU:
- What was your favorite childhood toy?
- Are you a PC or a MAC? Explain why you identify with the brand you chose.

WATCH THE DVD and/or READ Chapter 13 Together

DISCUSS: From the Chapter/ Into the Bible
- (Read 1 Kings 11:1-13) What was Solomon’s weakness and what were the consequences?

- (Read 1 Kings 3:5-9) Solomon approached God asking for discernment in administering justice. When you pray, what is your attitude when you approach God?

- (Read Proverbs 1:1-7) How do you seek wisdom in your life?
DISCUSS: From the DVD

• God told Solomon that he would give him anything he wanted, that all he had to do was ask for it. When Solomon asked for wisdom and discernment to lead God’s people, God was so pleased with his wish that he gave Solomon so much more. What did God give Solomon?
• Randy reads, “A gossip betrays confidence; so avoid anyone who talks too much.” (Proverbs 20:19) How do you typically respond to someone who wants to talk to you about other people’s business?
• Randy used the analogy of boiling a frog to explain how slow changes make us believe that everything is fine when it can actually get us into hot water. What is something you can change that will keep you from reaching the boiling point and being drawn away from spiritual truth?

DISCUSS: From the Sermon

1. _______________________________________________________
2. _______________________________________________________
3. _______________________________________________________

DISCUSS: From the Homework (page 21-22)

• What is something that stuck out to you from the homework?
• Is there a question or questions that you need answered from the homework?

PRAYER:

• Write down group prayer request and praises/celebrations on the following page.
• Remind your group that these requests must remain confidential in order to build a community of trust.
• Take time to ask for personal requests, focusing on each member and his or her needs.
• Break your group up by gender if you feel members will be more open and honest.

NEXT WEEK’S READING:

• The Story: Chapter 14
• Bible passages: 1 Kings 12-16
1. What insight, principle or observation from this weekend’s messages did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

2. Read 1 Kings 1-4
   a. What warning did Nathan give to Bathsheba?

   b. What encouraging words did David begin his charge to Solomon with?

   c. What did God promise to Solomon if he would walk in obedience as his father had?

   d. What were some of Solomon’s intellectual accomplishments?

3. Read Proverbs 1-3
   a. Where does wisdom come from?

   b. How should we look for wisdom?

   c. Write out Proverbs 3:5-6.

4. Read Proverbs 20-21
   a. How should we be careful about vows we take?

   b. What is the glory of young men and old?
c. What seems right to people in Proverbs 21. What does God look at?

d. How should we manage our words?

e. How are our plans affected by God’s will?

5. Read 1 Kings 5-8, 2 Chron. 5-7
   a. What was Solomon’s intention in his message to Hiram? What assistance did Solomon ask him for?

   b. What did God tell Solomon about the temple?

   c. Who did Solomon call to move the Ark of the Covenant into the Temple?

   d. What was in the Ark?

6. Read 1 Kings 10-11; Proverbs 6
   a. Why did the Queen of Sheba come to visit Solomon?

   b. How many wives did Solomon have? How many concubines? Which led him astray?

   c. What title would you give Proverbs 6?
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Date: _____/_____/_____
To make disciples of Jesus, it does not happen by accident. We have to be strategic and intentional. There are many ways for us to be strategic in the way in which we make a disciple, but the common denominator is that all strategies are intentional.

One way we can be intentional at First Christian is by asking questions that focus on each person’s head, heart and hands. Let me explain...

**HEAD:**
It is in the head where we hold our knowledge. Everything we know about everything is held in our head. Knowledge is a good thing and we need to know what we believe about God and His Word. Many people keep their faith at the head level; it is all about what they know. The challenge is to move them to the heart.

**HEART:**
The knowledge that people have in their heads is good, but it must eventually move to the heart where conviction and believe hold their place. They know what they believe and they have strong convictions about their beliefs. However, there are many Christians who hold deep convictions about their faith, yet their lives have not changed much. The next challenge is to move this from the heart to the hands.

**HANDS:**
James tells us, “In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. ‘You have faith; I have deeds.’ Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by path I do,” (James 2:18, NIV). When knowledge and conviction come together peoples’ lives change. They behave differently and they live with purpose. The “Hands” is all about faith in action.

You will notice in each set of questions in this study that there is one question intentionally focused at the head, the heart, and the hands. This is intentional and we want you to take advantage of this.
People go through a process of spiritual maturity. This will vary from person to person. These stages are not designed to label people or to put them in a box. They are designed to help us know where people are spiritually. Then we can know where they need to be and how to help take them there.

THE 5 STAGES OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

DEAD:
People in this stage have not yet accepted Christ as Lord and Savior. They may completely reject God or they may be seeking God. They may be “spiritual,” and may even claim to know God or be a Christian. In reality, they are their own god.

INFANT:
People in this stage have accepted Christ, but have not moved much past that point. They can be new believers, or they might be stagnant, long-time Christians. Life is generally all about them and their needs.

CHILD:
People in this stage are growing in their relationship with God, and are also beginning to grow in their relationship with other Christians. They are applying God's Word in their lives and allowing others to walk beside them in their journey following Christ. However, it’s still mostly about them – their needs, comfort, etc.

YOUNG ADULT:
People in this stage are making a big shift from being self-centered to more others-centered. They’re beginning to understand their role as a giver, rather than a taker. They are ministering to others, and putting others first. They are being doers of the Word.

PARENT:
People in this stage have a solid understanding of God’s Word and a deep, abiding relationship with the Father. They are living out God’s Word in their daily lives. They are others-centered and God-dependent. They are able to reproduce mature disciples of Jesus by inviting others to follow them as they follow Christ.

“When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

- 1 Corinthians 13:11-13 NIV84
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Life Stage</th>
<th>Attributes</th>
<th>Beliefs, Behaviors &amp; Attitudes</th>
<th>Spiritual Needs</th>
<th>Common Phrases</th>
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<td>Dead</td>
<td>Unbelieving • Rebellious • Abrasive to Christianity</td>
<td>Disbelief of the supernatural, or belief in many forms of the supernatural • Belief in one God, but many ways to get to Him • Confusion about God, Jesus and the church • Belief that they are as good as anyone else so they don’t need a Savior</td>
<td>A secure relationship with a follower of Jesus • Answers about Christianity, Explanation of the Gospel • An Invitation to receive Christ</td>
<td>“I don’t believe there is a God.” • “The Bible is just a bunch of myths.” • “Evolution explains away a need for God.”</td>
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<td>Infant</td>
<td>Ignorant of Biblical Truth • Confused • Dependent on mature Believers • Need spiritual cleaning often</td>
<td>Ignorance about what they need and what the Bible says about life and the purpose of a Christian • Ignorance about or frustration towards Christianity and the church • Belief that Christians make no mistakes; unrealistic expectations of themselves</td>
<td>Individual attention from a spiritual parent • Protection • An explanation of the truths found in the Word of God • An explanation and modeling of the habits of a growing believer</td>
<td>“I believe in Jesus, but my church is when I’m in the woods or on the lake.” • “I don’t have to go to church to be a Christian.” • “I didn’t know the Bible said that.”</td>
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<td>Child</td>
<td>Self-centered • Interdependent • P prideful • Still in need of occasional cleanings</td>
<td>Excitement over having deep relationships • Belief that feelings are most important, which leads to spiritual highs and lows • Belief that people are not caring for them enough • Lack of wisdom about how to use what they are learning—especially, too aggressive when sharing their faith, or too legalistic in their approach to dealing with their friends and family • More knowledge about what Christians say than what the Word says.</td>
<td>A spiritual family • Help for how to feed themselves • Teaching about who they are in Christ • Teaching about how to have relationships with other Believers • Teaching about appropriate expectations concerning other believers</td>
<td>“I love my small group; don’t add any more people to it.” • “Who are these people coming to my church? Tell them to go somewhere else!” • “I am not being fed in my church, so I am going to a church that meets my needs better.”</td>
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<td>Young Adult</td>
<td>Zealous • God-Centered • Others-Centered • Independent • Still trying to grasp the mission</td>
<td>Desire to serve others for others’ good and the glory of God • Tendency to feel responsible for how others respond to the message; possible pride if a person accepts the message and possible discouragement if he or she doesn’t • Tendency to be black and white about what should happen in a church • Desire to serve but not strategic about how to train others</td>
<td>A place to learn and serve, a spiritual parent who will debrief them about ministry experiences • Ongoing relationships that offer encouragement and accountability • Help establishing boundaries, guidance regarding appropriate expectations of people they will serve • Help identifying their gifts</td>
<td>“I love my group, but there are others who need a group like this.” • “I think I could lead a group with a little help. I have three friends I have been witnessing to, and this group would be too big for them.” • “In my devotions, I came across something I have a question about.”</td>
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<td>Parent</td>
<td>Intentional • Strategic • Reproduction-minded • Self-feeding • Mission minded • Team-minded • Dependable</td>
<td>Ability to think in terms of what a team (rather than an individual) can do • A coaching mindset • Desire to see the people they work with mature and become fellow workers who love them but aren’t dependent on them to complete the mission</td>
<td>An ongoing relationship with co-laborers, a church family, encouragement</td>
<td>“I realized discipleship happens at home, too. Will you hold me accountable to spend time discipling my kids?” • “This guy at work asked me to explain the Bible to him. Pray for me.”</td>
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