

October 15-21: The Rich Young Man (Matthew 19:16-30)

WELCOME – Don't read through the list; this is something that you model.

- Help new believers, visitors, and members feel valued and welcomed.
- Start at the moment someone arrives and don't end until everyone is gone.
- Establish a foundation for relationships.

OPENING PRAYER – Don't read through the list; this is something that you model.

- Invite God's Holy Spirit into our presence.
- Prepare our hearts for what God has for us.
- Shift our attention from individual fellowship to the group.

PURPOSE/VISION CASTING – Don't read through the list; say them in your own words.

"The purpose of this group is..."

- to mature in our relationship with God.
- to have the people we need around us to disciple and encourage us.
- to be here for others in the group; to encourage and disciple others.
- to live life together; we are here for each other in the joyful and difficult moments of our lives.
- to invite other people into a relational environment, which means our group will branch at some point; when that point comes, if you would like to lead or host a group, please let me know.

GROUND RULES – Cover all the ground rules.

- Confidentiality: What's said in the group stays in the group.
- Listen: Apply active listening skills. This is a communication technique that requires the listener to concentrate, understand, and remember what is being said, and then respond.
- Pause: Allow a pause in conversation after someone shares to give the person sharing a chance to finish and give the group an opportunity to consider what was shared before responding.
- Silence: It is important to allow silence in the group as it provides an opportunity for someone to share and for members in the group to process the topic or question being considered.
- No Cross Talk: Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations.
- No Fixing: We are not here to fix each other. Jesus does that. Give encouragement, speak truth, and point to Jesus. Don't try to fix each other.
- No Rescuing: When people are sharing something deeply personal, there can be a tendency to make them feel better about themselves or the situation by providing immediate condolences. This will often cause them to stop sharing. Resist the temptation to rescue people.
- Sharing: Be sensitive about the amount of time you share.
- Use "I" statements: It's easy to talk about the issues of others, but for our purposes, we want you to put yourself on the table. Try to use "I" statements rather than "they," "the church," "us," "we," etc.
- Household Rules: We appreciate those who open their home up to CARE Groups and out of respect to them we need to... (e.g., take shoes off, clean up toys afterward, put chairs back, leave by 8:00 pm, etc.)

OPENING CONNECTION – Use the following icebreaker.

- What is your all-time favorite movie? What is one reason we should watch this movie too?

Optional icebreaker from this week's sermon:

- What did this implication mean to you? "What we believe doesn't matter unless it is rooted in what God says and does. We are His tools, His vessels, and His partners – not the other way around."

TRANSITION – As you listen, Jesus is going to be asked what it takes to gain eternal life; think about what Jesus's answer means to you.

STORY THE PASSAGE – Story the passage.

- Matthew 19:16-30

REBUILD THE PASSAGE

- What happened first? What happened next? What happened after that?
Note: This helps cement the story in people's minds and hearts. Ask someone if they would be willing to tell the story from memory as a follow-up.

DEBRIEF THE PASSAGE – Ask the questions.

- What do you learn about Jesus in this story?
- Sometimes it is easier to follow Jesus, and other times it is easier for us to love people. How balanced are you?
- Spiritual maturity is something we are to strive for. It has a balance of following Jesus and loving people. What can you do this week to become more balanced?

CLOSE IN PRAYER – Don't read through the list; choose a way to close in prayer.

- Take prayer requests.
- Pray about the conversation that you just had.
- Break up in smaller groups to pray as an option.

NEXT WEEK'S STORY – The curriculum will not follow the Revelation sermon series. Instead, we will be covering stories from the Gospels.

- Matthew 21:33-43 – Parable of the Tenants