

MESSAGE BIG IDEA

Apprenticing with Jesus involves reorienting our lives around three relationships, including Loving People in the Church.

SCRIPTURE

John 13:1-17, John 17:20-23

DISCUSSION

1. As the leader, it is important to allow participants to share some of their personal experiences in making friends. You can give your examples and share some family values you hold.
2. On this point, direct people to think about how the pandemic has affected their relationships with others. You can refer to the fact that most small groups have moved online, and we've just started going back to in-person services. This has created all kinds of challenges when it comes to loving others.
3. John 13 is the beginning of a set of chapters known as Jesus' Farewell Discourse. He is giving his apprentices the final instructions on how to live beyond Jesus's time on this earth. It is vital to keep that in mind as you think of what Jesus is trying to teach here.
4. John 17 is the final chapter of Jesus' Farewell Discourse. Many believe Jesus' prayer in chapter 17 about unity has yet to be answered. Invite people to reflect on this truth.
5. It would be helpful to think about some roadblocks to serving ahead of time if people have a hard time coming up with some. You can think about: pride, lack of time, busyness, or simply not wanting to do it.
6. This moment is a great time to think about how your small group can serve in the church. It would be helpful to provide people with options to connect. You can refer them to communitychristian.org/contribute for more details on opportunities available.
7. Allow people to freedom to express the challenges they've had in being part of a small group or a team. Also, be sure to share some benefits of connecting with others through small groups and serving others in the church.
8. Challenge people to take the next step in their growth as 3C Christ-followers.