

# BIBLICAL MENTORING

## Step 1: The Heart of Mentor

*Session 3:  
Where does Jesus meet us?*



In this session, we'll consider how Jesus interacted with the people He encountered and how He calls us to be aware of and present to others. Begin by sharing any insights you gleaned from the last lesson's Points to Ponder scripture passages or Peter's journey from denial to restoration. Has God brought anyone to mind with whom you might connect and walk beside?

## Practicing the Presence of People

So far we've looked at why and how we are called to disciple others, following the example of Jesus. This session will focus on the importance of being intentionally aware of and present to the people God brings into our lives.

As a Master Teacher, Jesus told us and showed us; He told us to love our neighbors and He showed us what that looks like. Consider the following examples from Jesus' life and discuss how each example can play out in our culture today.

Read John 4:1-30, 39-42

Jesus broke social norms by initiating conversation with the Samaritan woman. As a Jewish teacher, it was very unusual for Him to connect with her at all.

## Discussion

- What kindness did Jesus show the Samaritan woman and how did He engage her in conversation?

- What was the result?
  
- Who are the “Samaritans” in your world? What keeps you from connecting with them?

In Matthew 14 we find the account of the death of John the Baptist at the hand of Herod. When John’s disciples told Jesus the news of their teacher’s beheading, Jesus withdraws alone to a “solitary place” to grieve the death of His cousin. Read Matthew 14:13-21

## Discussion

- Even though Jesus wanted to grieve this loss alone, what was His reaction to the crowd’s insistence on being with Him? Why was He able to react that way?
  
- What is your usual reaction when interrupted or inconvenienced by those in your relational circle?

There is no indication in this passage that Jesus shared His sorrow over John's death with His disciples. But read Matthew 14:22-23a and consider what Jesus did immediately after He met the needs of the crowd.

## Discussion

- Why did Jesus want to be alone and what was He doing during this mini retreat?
  
- What can we learn from His example about paying attention to our own spiritual needs?
  
- As depicted in this entire Matthew 14 passage, what does Jesus' life show us about the need to be present to others, and the need to attend to our own spiritual refreshment and rest?

Read Luke 8:40-56. In this passage we see Jesus and his disciples on an emergency mission. The daughter of a key member of society was in her last hours of life. Getting there as fast as they could was essential yet the crowds impeded them. One brave, desperate, believing woman stops Jesus in His tracks.

- Jesus agrees to help Jairus, an important ruler in the synagogue, but is interrupted. How do you handle interruptions? Especially when your “mission” feels important or involves those who have status in your world?
  
- The crowd was large and crushing, but Jesus sensed that healing power had gone out from Him when the ostracized woman touched the hem of His cloak. Think about the emotional, relational, physical and spiritual aspects of life and talk about the full extent of her healing. How complete was Jesus’ response to her touch?
  
- How did Jesus affirm her faith, in addition to healing her?

As a disciple of Jesus, who is training to become like the teacher (Luke 6:40), what other stories of Jesus’ interactions with people come to mind, and why?

## Expecting the Unexpected

From social custom to personal need to true emergency, Jesus had many reasons to ignore and neglect the unexpected people the Father put in His path. Think about your own life for a moment.

- What can you do to be more fully aware of the people God places in your daily path?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- How can you begin to overcome the barriers that hinder you from engaging them more fully?

Jesus met people where they were and then helped them take their next step of faith. Sometimes the encounter took a couple of minutes (the woman who touched His hem), sometimes it was a couple of hours (Zacchaeus) and sometimes it required a few years (the twelve disciples). Through every interaction Jesus was modeling what He told us to do. It was as He was going that He made disciples and proclaimed the good news of God's kingdom. Making disciples this way begins with an essential ingredient. Those who want to make disciples like Jesus did need to be aware of the people the Father has already placed around them.









## This Week's Scripture Reading and Journaling

1. Begin with Reflection: It is easy to think of ourselves as doing okay and better than “that person.” Read the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector in Luke 18:9-14. With this as context, read Romans 5:6-8 out loud three times and ponder just how far from God you were prior to your confession of faith in Jesus.
2. Journaling: “As you are going” about your regular tasks this week, be aware of the thing you identified in class that will help you grow in practicing the presence of people. Keep a list of those times when God gave you the opportunity to grow in this area, or another area that helps you look more like Jesus.
3. Go to YouTube and search for “Beautiful Things - Gungor Music Video.”
4. Test your awareness. Go to YouTube and search for “Awareness Test: Whodunnit?”



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