

March 13, 2011

## **GOING DEEP**

Luke 6:6-11

### **INTENTION**

*Group members will discover that, for Christians, connecting with God is not about following a set of rules but developing relationships that address our deepest needs.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

*This section introduces the idea of getting to know someone on a deeper level.*

- I. Tell your group that we are going to have a “going deeper” activity.
  - a. Ask each member to think of an ending to the following sentence: “If you really knew me, you would know that ...”
  - b. Now allow volunteers, one at a time to finish the sentence.
  - c. Continue until everyone has a chance to share something new about themselves
- II. Now ask group members to share anything they heard from someone that surprised or interested them. After various people share, follow-up by asking:
  - a. Why were you surprised?
  - b. What are you curious about?
- III. Discuss: Ask group members to discuss whether they think most of their daily conversations are “deep” conversations or “shallow” conversations.
  - a. What qualifies as a deep conversation versus a shallow one?
  - b. Which kind of conversation would you prefer to be involved in and why?
  - c. How does one go about moving a conversation from casual small talk to discussing things that matter?

### **INVESTIGATION**

*This section will allow students to study today’s Scripture passage*

- I. Ask a volunteer to read Luke 6:6-11.
- II. Now ask everyone to close their Bibles and have a volunteer attempt to retell the story can from memory.
- III. After the story has been retold, encourage other group members to add details to the story that may have been left out.
- IV. Now have group members look up the passage and fill in any other details they may have been missed.

Ask:

- a. Who were the opposing personalities in this story? (Jesus and the Pharisees)
- b. List all the similarities you can find between the two.
- c. List the differences between each.

## **INTERACTION**

*This section allows group members to analyze how the story relates to going deeper with people.*

1. What were the Pharisees (religious leaders) concerned about in this episode? Why do you think keeping the Sabbath was important to them?
2. What was Jesus concerned about? (Helping the man with the withered hand) Why do you think healing the man was important to Him?
3. Suppose you were to interview this man about what was really important to him, as he sat waiting in the synagogue that day:
  - a. Which item do you think would have carried the most weight with him, keeping the Sabbath or dealing with his crippled hand?
  - b. Which topic of conversation would he consider “deep”? Why?
  - c. In addition to noticing and discussing this man’s need, what else did Jesus do? Why was that important?
4. Think about conversations you have held with various people recently.
  - a. Try to rate the two or three most valuable or important conversations you have had in your recent memory.
  - b. How were those conversations initiated?
  - c. Were any of them difficult conversations?
  - d. Were any of them personal or touchy subjects?
5. Ask if anyone would volunteer to share what the conversation was about.
6. If you believe that difficult or sensitive subjects of conversation are often the most important ones, why do you think we often have difficulty addressing those types of topics about ourselves? About others?

## **IMPLICATION**

*This section challenges group members to step into the lives of others and to invite others they trust to help in personal and important areas in their own lives.*

1. Ask group members to pause and think for a moment about whether there are really important issues, questions, problems or doubts that they are wrestling with but have not shared with others.
2. Allow the group to brainstorm ideas on ways to allow God to work through others to begin to discuss and address difficult issues.
3. Now ask group members to think of some people close to them:
  - a. Are you aware of things they are struggling with?
  - b. Allow the group to brainstorm ideas on how to encourage the people you know and love to open up about their lives.
4. Allow group members to share what part of this lesson or this Scripture passage spoke to them.
5. Close by inviting the group to pray for each other.