

## The Meetings Between the Meetings

In Mark 14:3 we read, “*Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him...*” From this passage we can ascertain that part of Jesus’ strategy with His disciples was the investment of His time. Throughout the Gospels we often find Jesus pulling the disciples aside to spend time with them. He did this with the whole group, but also often with just a few of them and sometimes even one-on-one.

It was during these times of investment, both as a group and one-on-one, that Jesus was able to impart and instruct at a deeper level, and to develop the kind of relationships that would allow Him to say, “*No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.*” (John 15:15)

➤ *We see that Jesus was intentional about the time he spent with those he led, how has your personal growth and walk with the Lord been affected by spending one-on-one time with a mentor?*

Ultimately, what we are after is discipleship. We know that discipleship happens in the context of relationships. The reason we do small groups is that they create great opportunities to cultivate the types of relationships in which discipleship can happen. We also understand that discipleship doesn’t happen completely just in small groups. It’s those one-on-one moments over coffee or hanging out with families that offer opportunities for real life discipleship.

Often, what happens between Ministry Team and Small Group meetings can be more important than what happens in the meetings. Here are three thoughts about the **meetings between the meetings** that will help you to cultivate kind of relationships that lend themselves to real, life-giving discipleship!

### **1. You have to schedule time for it; it won’t just happen on accident.**

Be intentional about setting aside time each week for meeting with members of your Ministry Team or Small Group. Depending upon your schedule, it may only be once a week, maybe over lunch or coffee, or more often if time permits. The point is to be intentional about it.

➤ *What time, maybe a lunch break or another time, during your week could you set aside for meeting one-on-one with members of your Small Group?*

### **2. Use built in breaks in your day, such as drive time, to connect by phone.**

That’s what phones are for...remember, a phone call a day keeps the devil away! Just the fact that you are thinking about them and reached out with a phone call or text message communicates genuine care and concern. People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.

**3. Ministry must be modeled.**

People learn by example. Your goal is to help them in their spiritual development, but also to train them to do what you are doing with them. Paul said it like this to his young disciple Timothy:

*And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. 2 Timothy 2:2*

- *What concerns or conflicts may be preventing you from investing in the lives of others on a more direct or personal level?*
- *What can you begin doing today that will help you connect with those you are leading so that you can help them develop as leaders?*