

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

DO WHAT?

INTRODUCTION

God wants every one of us to be in relationship with him and others. It's why God created marriage, family, friends, and church. Often these relationships can be the most difficult part of life, a broken marriage, a wayward son or daughter, a failed business partnership, an addicted spouse, a damaged friendship, a faithless father, a whacky mother, or a messed up sibling. Everything in life comes down to our relationships. God intends for us to be connected to each other and to have deep, healthy and meaningful relationships. Remember, "For where two or three gather as my followers, I am there among them" (Matthew 18:20). Let the questions and scriptures below help guide your discussion.

BIBLE VERSE

COMMIT TO MEMORY

"Two are better than one because they have good return for their labor. If one falls down, the other can help him up. But pity those who fall and have no one to help them up." Ecclesiastes 4:9

WEEK 3—BE IN RELATIONSHIP (BOB MERRITT)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Everyone has experienced good and bad friendships in life. Describe a bad experience you've had with a friend in your life. What went wrong?
2. Bob tells the story of missing golf with a friend, Matt. "Now I love golf, but what I really love is sharing it with someone. I really love the oneness that we have in Christ; the connection, the conversation about family and faith, and a friendship that's been deepened." Talk about a friend who has been this to you.
3. Bob asked the questions, "Why should I care about being in relationship with other people?" and "Why is God so insistent that you and I be in relationships with others?" Why do you think?
4. **Luke 17:1** says, "Things that cause people to stumble are bound to come." In other words it's impossible to go through life without stumbling over something. Share a time when you stumbled and someone was there to help you. How did that make you feel?
5. **Ecclesiastes 4:9** says, "Two are better than one because they have good return for their labor. If one falls down, the other can help him up. But pity those who fall and have no one to help them up." There are lots of people in your sphere of influence who have fallen and are not connected. Who can you reach out to and pray with, care for, or invite to EBC that needs your help?
6. Bob told the story of Jonathan and his armor bearer, found in **1 Samuel 14**. There's a potential for greatness inside every person, but for a lot of us there's one thing that's missing: you don't have any heart and soul people to help you get there. Who in your life is a heart and soul friend? Is there someone God has placed in your life that you need to be a heart and soul friend?

THINK ABOUT IT

Every one of us will stumble, every one of us will be hit by a rogue wave that we won't see coming, and our ability to survive that wave and reach our greatest potential will all depend on the group of Christian friends who are with us heart and soul. You simply cannot reach your potential without a close group of godly people who are with you heart and soul.

