

Session 2

It's An Inside Job

Big Idea: God calls us to grow in Christ while remaining in relationships with the unbelievers in our workplaces, neighborhoods, and families. God wants to use us right where we are.

Last time we saw that discipleship involves struggling people helping other struggling people become like Christ. The characters in our story were certainly a mess: Bill and Jackie were in pain over lowered financial expectations, while Gerry and Linda were in trouble with Linda's son, Erik.



In this session we introduce the concept of the *insider*. This represents a profound shift in the way we understand discipleship. Some of us used to believe that in order to grow in Christ and to help others grow, we needed to draw apart from the world. This is what God told Israel to do in the Old Testament: draw apart and be separate. By contrast, we'll see that discipleship in the New Testament requires us to remain living in a lost world, staying where God has placed us. Your goals in this session should be to:

- Understand what it means to be an insider, and
- Begin thinking about how you are an insider in someone's life.

1. From the video, what would you say it means to be an insider?

An insider is someone who has relationships with unbelievers and has a focus of being used by God to draw them to Christ.

2. Read 1 Corinthians 7:12-24. How do Paul's instructions relate to the concept of an insider?

Whatever unique relationships we have with unbelievers are strategic opportunities for the Gospel.

3. What would have happened if Gerry had taken the advice that he should stop being such a close friend to Raz?

Gerry would not have had the opportunity to be used by God to draw Raz in the kingdom.

"My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified."

John 17:15-19

A Disciplemaker focuses on:

- *People, not programs*
- *Goals, not means.*
(Bookstores are full of books on how to do things, but people don't know what they should be doing.)
- *Individuals, not masses*
- *Intensive ministry, not extensive ministry (A few individuals receive countless hours of counsel, encouragement, exhortation, and help. This disciplemaker is the key influence in their lives for a time.)*
- *Building lives, not getting decisions*
- *The world as well as the neighborhood.*

*David Bok,
"Who Is a Disciplemaker?"
Discipleship Journal, Issue 12.*

4. How do you think Gerry grew by reaching out to Raz?

For Gerry to share his faith with Raz, he had to think it through and realize what God had done in his life. This grows our love for God and appreciation for how He has changed or is changing our life.

5. What did Raz gain by trying to live in a godly way in front of Thomas?



He indicated to Thomas that he was willing to obey God even if he had to risk his job to do so. I also think he was willing to trust that God would meet his needs if he had lost his job.

6. What impact do you think a believer has on an unbeliever when they are willing to risk being vulnerable about their weaknesses?

Unbelievers don't see the believer as perfect, and they are able to watch or hear about Jesus changing the believer.

Suggested Additional Reading:

Read chapter 2 of *Lifestyle Discipleship*