



GUIDE NOTES *SESSION 3*

PEOPLE

Tonight is about helping people reflect on their **relationships** and how they're **shaping their faith**. Encourage participants to notice both their **inner posture toward community** and the **reality of their current relationships**. Invite them to celebrate where **God has already been at work** and to discern **one simple, faithful next step** toward **building** or **deepening community** this week.

MEAL & MINGLE *30-40 min* ●●●●

FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK

Last time each of us named one small, faithful step we wanted to take in our relationship with Jesus this past week.

As we eat, let's take a few minutes to share:

- How did it go—and what did you notice?
- What made it easier or harder than you expected?

GUIDE TIP: Keep this conversation reflective, not evaluative. Celebrate faithfulness, normalize resistance, and gently redirect if it turns into advice-giving. The goal is shared learning—not perfect follow-through.

GROUND RULES FOR A GREAT DISCUSSION

Come As You Are We're all at different places in our discipleship journey—share what's going well, what's hard, or what isn't clicking—this is exactly what community is for.

Ask the Question Even if you feel like you should know the answer. A small breakthrough is likely on the other side.

Share Your Experience, Not Your Advice Create space for processing by asking follow-up questions and sharing what's helped you, rather than telling others what they *should* do.

Lean In. Lean Out. The night works best when everyone engages—some may need to lean in and share even when it feels uncomfortable, others may need to share and then lean out and make room for different voices.

Respect Confidentiality What's shared here stays here. Honor one another's stories and don't share personal details outside the group without permission.

Trust That God Is Moving Every night won't feel like a breakthrough, but trust that God is at work and will use this time in ways you may not see yet. Even if you can't feel it, he's moving...

QUESTIONS 50-60 min

YOUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEOPLE

Let's read pages 16–17 out loud together.

As you listen, don't worry about evaluating your friendships or figuring out what you should change. Instead, notice how discipleship unfolds through relationships and how those relationships shape and strengthen your faith. Pay attention to what feels true for you right now, and what feels just a little out of reach.

After you finish reading, begin discussing:

1. **What parts of what we read felt most true for you right now?**
2. **What feels like it's still forming, growing, or a little out of reach for you right now?**

GUIDE TIP: Keep the focus on awareness, not action. Invite honesty and curiosity, not comparison or planning. This is about noticing where people are and what they're longing for—not fixing or moving ahead yet.

YOUR NEXT STEP WITH PEOPLE

Let's turn to pages 30–31 and look at *Your Pathway*.

Focus on the PEOPLE dimension—for your current stage and the ones before it. Mark the steps you've already completed or the relationships you already have.

After you finish marking off the pivotal steps, discuss:

3. **How are your current relationships shaping your faith right now?**
4. **What tends to get in the way of going deeper in community for you?** (For example, not making it a priority, not knowing how to initiate, fear of rejection, past hurt, preferring independence, waiting for others to make the first move, uncertainty about where you fit, or something else)
5. **Which pivotal step within PEOPLE feels like the right place to focus right now—and what is one small specific step you can commit to taking this week to move it forward?**

GUIDE TIP: Help the group move from noticing to choosing one simple, faithful step. That step may mean returning to a foundation, strengthening current relationships, or taking a step deeper into community. A good first move is reading the related guidebook section using the page numbers on Your Pathway (pages 30–31).

Prayer

Close the time together praying over what was shared and what's to come.