



Widen the Circle Mark 3:31-35

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In the video this morning of Mike's parents, they were asked "why did you widen the circle of friends around their boys." His mom answered, "I wanted cool people around my boys." When you were young, was there another adult (not your mom or dad) who gave you good advice and built into you in a positive way- cool people?
2. Read Deuteronomy 5:1 and 6:1-9. Deuteronomy is an address by a single man (Moses) to thousands of people. The "you" that you find in these passages is plural – not singular. Re-read these verses substituting "you" with "all of you" or "y'all". How does that change the meaning for you?
3. Read Mark 3:31-35. Jesus was not speaking "negatively" toward his birth mother and brother. In what ways was he speaking "positively" toward those that were sitting around him? How did he "widen their circle."?
4. Do you ever find it lonely to follow Jesus? If you are a parent, do you ever find parenting lonely or overwhelming? If so, how does the knowledge that God never intended you to follow Jesus or raise your child "alone" impact you?
5. Mike asked his parents, "In what specific ways did you widen our circle of friends?" To what extent do you think you are currently leveraging the power of a wider relational circle in your life? In your child's life? What kind of intentional friendships are being formed? How many other adults (who say the kinds of things you would say) are speaking into your child or teen's life?
6. How do you feel as a parent about other adults you trust speaking in to your child's life? What would your fears be? What would your hopes be? Why do you think God seems to think this is a good idea for you and your child or teen?
7. How do you feel as an adult about speaking into the lives of those that are not of your family, but younger? Do you feel any sense of responsibility, fears, hopes?
8. If you could change the way you interact with people at church to widen the relational circle more strategically for you and/or your family, how would you change it?
9. What next steps could you take to widen the circle, both for you and/or your children?

TAKING IT HOME...

At Lake Forest, we believe every child should have another adult in their lives who says the same kinds of things a parent would say. That's why we are committed to a small group based model of children and student ministry.

To widen the circle for your child, start talking to your child about what happened in group. Who are her friends? What's his small group leader's name? What did they talk about? Do they want to have a friend from their group come over to play or hang out? You might even introduce yourself to your son or daughter's small group leader and make a personal connection.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"Moses called all the people of Israel together and said. "Listen carefully, Israel. Hear the decrees and regulations I am giving you today, so you may learn them and obey them."

Deuteronomy 5.1

*Questions adapted from the Re-think Group