

Influential Characters

Resource: Discipleship Journal

It is suggested that the following could be used as a Bible study for small groups.

Many stories in scripture illustrate the power of influence in action. In each of these Bible studies each character exercises significant influence in someone else's life. Read each story and then consider the questions that follow.

Jethro and Moses, Exodus 18:5-27

- How did Jethro influence Moses?
- How did Jethro's counsel affect the nation of Israel?
- What does Moses' response to Jethro's counsel suggest about Moses' character?

Peter and Paul, Galatians 2:11-16

- Who exercised influence in this story?
- What motivated Peter to submit to the "conservative Jewish clique"?
- How did Peter's actions affect other believers in Antioch?
- How does Paul's influence contrast with Peter's?

Jehoiada, Joash, and Judah, 2 Chronicles 23:1-3,11,16-17; 24:1-2, 17-25

- Who exercised influence in this story?
- How does this story display the strength of Jehoiada's influence in particular?



- What were the consequences for Joash and for Judah when Jehoiada's positive influence was no longer present?

Jesus and the Woman at the Well, John 4:3-42

- How did Jesus influence the Samaritan woman?
- How did she influence her fellow townspeople?

Naaman, a Young Girl, and Elisha, 2 Kings 5:1-15

- List each person who affected someone else's decisions.
- What similarities do you see among these influencers?
- How are they different from one another?
- What do these similarities and differences suggest to you about the nature of influence?