

MANIPULATING PEOPLE

Series: How to Deal with Difficult People

John 12:1-8

SERIES THOUGHT: You CAN'T control what OTHERS say and do, but you CAN control what YOU say and do.

MANIPULATORS' GREATEST WEAPONS:

✓ THREATS

✓ GUILT

BREAKING THE POWER OF MANIPULATION

When dealing with manipulative people...

- ➊ *Recognize when they are trying to CONTROL you.
(John 12:1-6, Matthew 16:21-22)*
- ➋ *Remind yourself this is not going to WORK on you.
(John 12:7-8, Matthew 16:21-23)*
- ➌ *Redefine the RELATIONSHIP.
(Matthew 17:1-9, 26:47-50, John 21:26)*

REALife Application

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step. If you're leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

What types of people tend to get under your skin the most? Why do these people bother you so much?

With your Bible or YouVersion, read Mark 6:21-26, Genesis 25:29-24, and Judges 16:15-16.

These passages illustrate examples of people who were manipulated.

- Which of the three common tactics of manipulators are most effective on you: flattery, threats, or guilt? Why are they so effective?
- In what ways have you been impacted by manipulative people? Share examples.
- How have you manipulated others? What tactics did you use and what were the results of your manipulation?
- How do you know when you are being manipulated? How long does it usually take for you to realize it?

Read Matthew 16:21-23 and Isaiah 26:3-4.

These verses show us how to break the power of manipulation.

- What healthy boundaries do you need to enforce to break the power of manipulation in your life?
- Where in life are you not fully surrendered to God? What steps will you take to surrender to Him?
- Why do you think manipulative people are such a common problem for most people?
- What do you think will be the hardest part in dealing with those people that manipulate you?

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