



Week 2: Coaching Guide

Leading [learn to facilitate spiritual growth in your group more effectively]

There is a culture change that needs to happen in most of our groups at Western Hills Church in order for our groups to make disciples effectively. We need to see our groups as a place where we train and equip our people to reach others for Jesus...

- You can only sit in the same room with the same people telling Bible stories for so long before you start to question what in the world you are doing every week. The key to groups is growth.
- Growth happens when we exercise the knowledge we already possess. This means using the Bible stories we are learning and any other knowledge we have to share Jesus as we journey through our routines and lives.
- Group should be a place where people can be transparent about their struggles. However, group should also be a place where people are motivated to overcome their struggles so they can more effectively carry out Jesus' mission.
- Focus on equipping your group to share Jesus with others. This week's curriculum will "launch" you into this mission.
- Build a culture in your group where your people realize that the group is not all about them. Help them see that so much of what we do is to help us be more effective at reaching others. Encourage them to share Jesus with others and invite them to group.
- Solidify this position by expecting your people to take turns telling the Bible story, to pray out loud for others, to retell the story after each discussion, and to go share the story with others throughout the week.

Developing [grow as a disciple yourself]

Are you reaching anyone new for Jesus? Never underestimate your own ability as a leader to go out and reach someone for Christ. Take notes from Paul and Barnabas' examples in this week's story. They found new places to share their faith. They were bold about the truths of God's Word. They experienced victories and defeats. When they were beaten down (literally and figuratively) they got back up and stayed on mission.

Based on their example, we know that we won't always lead someone to Jesus when we share Him with others. However, we also learn that the best spiritual practice is to never stop sharing Jesus. When we share Jesus with others we grow spiritually with every encounter. We learn to depend more and more on Jesus as we witness, and we overcome the fear of man and begin to live for the glory of God.

Stop and think. Write down the names of three people that you have crossed paths with that you can share Jesus with this week. Think through the unique ways you could share Jesus with each one based on where they are at spiritually. Look for those opportunities specifically, but stay open to other opportunities the Lord brings across your path.



Week 2 (September 4-10): Lesson Guide

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions

Ask the group to recall the guidelines for discussion that we use to create a safe environment.

Ask someone to retell the story from last week (Samuel).

Ask this Hook Question: – “When most people think about sharing Jesus they think about sharing the gospel. However, we can also share Jesus by inviting someone new to group, sharing a Bible story, etc. Can you think of a time when you shared Jesus with someone else? What did you do? How did it turn out?”

Ask someone from your team to read or tell the following background for the story:

One of the primary reasons Christians fail to launch into God’s mission to make disciples is that they do not exercise the knowledge they already have. Many assume that spiritual growth means learning everything before acting. Jesus’ method of disciple-making shows another way – we learn a little, DO what we have learned, and grow spiritually as a result. We must exercise our knowledge or we will lose it.

The Apostle Paul was a man who exercised his knowledge. Our story today takes place during a time when the gospel of Jesus was first spreading to foreign Greek cities. Paul and Barnabas worked together as a team to share the gospel in many foreign places. Sometimes when they shared they received a positive response. At other times, the message of Jesus brought division and even a desire for others to take their lives. Paul and Barnabas had just escaped one such city (Iconium) when they found out that the leaders were planning to stone them. They went to a new city called Lystra. This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from Acts 14:8-22

Rebuild the story – (Group members retell the story based on what they remember)

Read Acts 14:8-22 – (Ask the group to read these verses)

Discuss these questions:

- What are some things you notice about Paul and Barnabas’ approach to sharing Jesus with others?
- How did Paul respond after he was stoned and drug outside the city for sharing Jesus?
- What made Paul respond this way? Why was he like that? (Read Paul’s words in 2 Cor. 3:4-5.)
- What is your greatest barrier when it comes to sharing Jesus with others?
- What do you personally need to learn from Paul’s example?
- Who could you share Jesus with this week? How do you need to share Jesus with them?
- Practice sharing Jesus! Who wants to retell this week’s Bible story to our group?
- Go share Jesus this week! Invite others to group, tell the Bible story, serve them and tell them why...

Head Questions:
Quicker tempo.

Heart Questions:
Slow down & wait!

Action Lines

Series Memory Verse: Ephesians 4:15, “speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.”

Ask for a volunteer to tell the Bible story next week.

Prayer Requests & Prayer

Announcements, Reminders & Dismiss