



Week 3: Coaching Guide

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

Together, as a church family, we are working to create a culture where relational discipleship is the engine that drives our church. A vision like this impacts many areas of church ministry...

- We do not rely on Sunday mornings to make disciples. Instead, we use Sunday mornings as an opportunity to share the gospel with the lost and to challenge God's people to know His Word and live it out in relationship with others.
- We do not rely on our men's and women's ministries to make disciples. Instead, these ministries provide opportunities for you and those in your group to invite new faces to connect with people in our church. The goal of events in these ministries is to 1) encourage our people to invite new people, 2) to share Jesus with our guests and 3) to connect people to relational discipleship through one of our groups.
- We do not rely on an education ministry to make disciples. Instead, any classes or seminars we offer are intended to help disciples of Jesus gain knowledge so that they can go and exercise that knowledge with their families and their groups. We know that when a disciple of Jesus learns new truths they will turn around and share those truths with others.

Our vision is to make disciples relationally. The primary method is sharing life with a small group. You are the intentional leader of your group. It is up to you to encourage your group to center their lives on relational discipleship. One of the ways you can cooperate with our entire church family in doing this is by making Sunday mornings, special events, and education opportunities a priority and invite your group to participate and to invite others to participate.

Developing [grow as a disciple yourself]

We want to encourage you – extend an invitation to your group to attend church *with you* on Sunday mornings so that you can share new truth and welcome new faces together. Invite your group members to attend special events (men's outings, women's bible studies, marriage seminars, etc.) *with you* so that you can share more life together and invite new faces to join you. Make community with your group and with other believers a central part of your life. Use that community to share Jesus with others and invite seekers to connect relationally.

It is up to us to build a culture of relational discipleship. Let's take advantage of every opportunity we can. To see what is happening now at Western Hills Church, visit www.westernhillschurch.com/rightnow, or stay informed on the Western Hills Church Facebook Page (@WesternHillsOKC).



Week 3 (September 11-17): 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 (Paul and Barnabas). We retell the story to exercise our knowledge and to practice sharing Jesus with others.

Ask this Hook Question: – “When you pray, what do you normally pray about or ask God to do?”

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

Our theme verse for our series *Failure to Launch* is Hebrews 5:11-14 (look up and read this passage).

The marker that separates those who are spiritually mature from those who are spiritually immature is identified on our discipleship wheel (which is explained in our 201 class at Western Hills). Those who are spiritually immature are self-centered. Those who are spiritually mature are God and others-centered. We must overcome selfishness in order to become effective disciple-makers and to grow spiritually.

Did you know that it is possible for Christians to be selfish in their relationship with Jesus? Today’s story is about a whole group of selfish people seeking Jesus for selfish reasons. Jesus had just performed a miracle by feeding 5000 people with five small loaves of bread and two small fish. Later, Jesus and His disciples left the area and crossed to the other side. The next day, the crowds realized that Jesus was gone. This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from John 6:24-35

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

Read John 6:24-35 – (Ask the group to read these verses)

Discuss these questions:

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| <p>Head Questions:
Quicker tempo.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What type of “bread” were the crowds talking about? What “bread” was Jesus talking about? • How do we know that the crowds following Jesus were being selfish? What does the story say? • After Jesus finished preaching to this crowd, what was their response? (Read John 6:66.) • What does this story teach us about people? |
| <p>Heart Questions:
Slow down & wait!</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who do you relate to in this story? • What selfishness do you see in your own life? Is your selfishness impacting your disciple-making? |
| <p>Action Lines</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selfishness causes a failure to launch. How do you need to become selfless & share Jesus this week? • Practice sharing Jesus! Who can retell this week’s Bible story to our group? • Go share Jesus this week! Invite others to group and share this Bible story with someone. |

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 (review announcements at www.westernhillschurch.com/rightnow)