



Week 4: Coaching Guide

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

Your group will never be healthy without a vision to reach people and multiply. Branching a group is the most effective way to cast the vision for our mission to reach the lost and make disciples.

As the intentional leader, there are some things you must do to branch your group:

- **Recruit an apprentice.** Find someone who is willing to help you lead your group and who will learn how to lead their own group.
- **Invite new people.** Never underestimate your own ability to connect new people to your group. Trust the Holy Spirit and continue to share Jesus with others by inviting them to your group.
- **Cooperate in trainings and opportunities to grow.** Our church offers classes that are meant to encourage spiritual growth and develop new leaders. Some of these classes are intended for your ongoing training while others are not. You may not feel like you need to attend a 201: Discipleship & Spiritual Growth class, but you can lead others by signing up and inviting them to attend with you. You may not need a 101: Newcomers class, but you could attend with someone in your group. These classes will help present the vision in a clear way and will create opportunities for you to continue to help those in your group mature spiritually.
- **Pray daily for your group.** Ask the Lord to give your group a heart to branch. Ask the Lord to help you raise up a new leader. Ask the Lord to make His calling to be on mission for Him clear to each person in your group. Ask the Lord to add new people to your group. Ask the Lord for grace to lead by example.

Developing [grow as a disciple yourself]

The job of disciple-making is far beyond your reach without Christ! On your own you will never be successful in fulfilling God's mission for your life. This is by design. God wants you to depend on Him alone; not only for salvation, but for the grace you need to live out the mission He has given you on this earth.

How's your heart when it comes to disciple-making? Has your focus drifted? Perhaps you are trying to make disciples on your own without recognizing God's part? Maybe you have become distracted by the world and you are experiencing mission drift? Pause right now. Take a few moments to seriously ask the Lord to reignite your passion for making disciples. Conclude your time of prayer by declaring to the Lord that you will only lean on and trust in Him and nothing else to complete His mission.



Week 4 (September 18-24): 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 (Bread that Satisfies Always).

Ask the Hook Question: “How does knowledge aid spiritual growth? How can it become a stumbling block?”

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

Today’s story is about something that was taking place in the church in Corinth, one of the churches the Apostle Paul wrote to and visited. Pause and read 1 Cor. 3:1-3 as part of the background...

As you can see from this passage, the church at Corinth had a maturity problem. They were not growing spiritually! Why? A common motif in this letter to the Corinthian church is the phrase, “Do you not know?” (it is used 10 times in the letter!). The city of Corinthians was a cultural melting pot due to recent increases in immigration. Every new immigrant brought their religious beliefs with them! The New Testament was not yet available to the church. These two factors created a major problem for the church: ignorance. Ignorance characterized the Corinthian church and was stunting their spiritual growth.

The problem of ignorance was getting so bad in the Corinthian church that many in the church thought they were super spiritual while they were living in all kinds of sin issues! In his letter Paul addressed many areas where the Corinthians lacked knowledge: incest, lawsuits among believers, sexual immorality, marriage and divorce, idol feasts and the Lord’s Supper, and more. Before you hear this story it is vital that you understand that these sin issues were being encouraged by people inside the church, and they considered these things to be spiritual and good! It is with this understanding that our story begins...

Tell the story from 1 Corinthians 5:1-7

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

Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-7 – (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 do you like or dislike about this story? • What does this story teach us about the effects of ignorance? • What does this story teach us about people? (Remember, we are people.) • What does this story teach us about God? |
| <p>Heart Questions: Slow down & wait!</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What sin issue have you been tolerating while still considering yourself to be “spiritual” or “mature”? • The literal definition of the word “disciple” is “learner.” How do you need to grow as a learner? |
| <p>Action Lines</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you don’t use it, you will lose it. What have you already learned that you need to start practicing? • 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 else. |

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.” (Practice reciting this verse as a group.)

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

Prayer Requests & Prayer

Announcements, Reminders & Dismiss (review announcements at www.westernhillchurch.com/rightnow)