



Week 3: February 16-22

10min

Welcome / Introduce Guests

Celebrate Relational Connections from the Last Week / Open in Prayer / Recall the Guidelines

Share the Vision: Making disciples is not just what we do, it is who we are. Each of us has been anointed by God to be a disciple-maker. Making disciples is not something we can do in our own power or strength. We must operate under the anointing of the Holy Spirit and with God's help to be effective disciple-makers.

2min

5min

Hook Question: Can you share a specific time when God used you to lead someone to faith in Him?

2min

Retell Last Week's Story: 1 Samuel 16:1-13 (Samuel anoints David as the next King of Israel)

2min

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

The birth of Samuel was miraculous. God opened the womb of a barren woman so that Samuel could be conceived. Out of gratefulness to God, Samuel's mother, Hannah, dedicated his life to the service of God. Samuel was adopted by the high priest named Eli. Under Eli, Samuel became a priest in Israel.

The role of a priest in Israel was to serve as a mediator between God and man. The primary job of a priest was to facilitate proper worship in Israel to lead people back to God and to His law. Priests did this primarily by offering the sacrifices to God that were prescribed in the law God gave Moses. At this point in Israel's history, priests were always from the tribe of Levi and were always members of the family of Aaron, who was the first high priest in Israel under Moses.

Eli, Samuel's mentor, had two sons. The sons of Eli were also priests, but they brought judgement on themselves because they dishonored the office of the priesthood by disregarding God's laws and by taking advantage of worshippers. Because of their sin, God judged Eli and his family. Eli's sons died in battle, Eli died because he did not restrain his sons, and the ark of the covenant was stolen by Israel's enemy, the Philistines. The Philistines were at war against Israel.

After the death of Eli, Samuel stepped into the role of his mentor. He led Israel as a judge and a priest. From birth, God had anointed Samuel and set him apart to serve Him. As a priest, Samuel stood in the gap between God and Israel. He offered sacrifices and led Israel to serve and worship God. These roles he functioned in as a priest are clearly seen in today's story. This is where our story begins...

12min

Tell the story from 1 Samuel 7:3-15: Remember to change up the storyteller often.

Rebuild the story: Group members retell the story based on what they remember.

Read the story from 1 Samuel 7:3-15: Ask the group to read these verses.

Discussion Questions: learn to talk about God's Word with others...

Head Questions: Quicker tempo.

- Read 1 Peter 2:5. According to this verse, how are believers like Samuel?
- Like Samuel, all believers are priests. Based on this background and story, what is our job as priests?
- What does this story teach us about people?
- What does this story teach us about God?

Heart & Hand Questions: Slow down & wait!

- What do you think God is trying to show you through this story and our discussion?
- Who could retell the story for us right here one last time?

Thank your storyteller for sharing the Word. Ask for a volunteer storyteller for next week. Close in prayer.

ANointed

*The power to perform
your purpose*

Week 3: Depending on God to be Great Administrators

If you are a small group leader, coach, parent, employer, church leader, or carry any of a host of other leadership positions, you are called to be an administrator.

It is so easy to look to ourselves when it comes to administration. Some people feel very confident in their abilities to administrate and lead, so they lean on those abilities. On the other hand, many of us feel we lack the giftings and skills necessary to be great leaders and administrators. In both cases, we are looking to ourselves instead of to God for what we need. God wants us to be humble. He wants us to look to Him and depend on Him for all we need.

Consider these principles about depending on God as administrators:

1. God is the chief worker.

From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. (Isaiah 64:4)

2. When I am working, God is working.

Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (Philippians 2:12–13)

By the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. (1 Corinthians 15:10)

3. When I am not working, God is still at work.

I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the Lord sustained me. (Psalm 3:5)

4. If God does not work, I labor in vain.

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. (Psalm 127:1)

5. If I do the work of the Lord, I never labor in vain.

My beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:58)

6. God-centered administration is not a technique, but a life.

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. (John 15:4)

Which of these do you need to pause and focus on right now? Spend a moment in prayer.