



Week 4: February 23-29

10min

Welcome / Introduce Guests

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

Share the Vision: Disciple-making is not just a practice, it is also a culture we can create. A disciple-making culture is a culture where every person sees themselves as a disciple of Jesus who is called and equipped to go make disciples of Jesus. This is the culture we are working to create in our small group.

2min

5min

Hook Question: Can you share about a time when you knew that God was directing you? What happened?

2min

Retell Last Week's Story: 1 Samuel 7:3-15 (Samuel offers a sacrifice at Mizpah)

2min

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

Before Jesus, God raised up prophets in the nation of Israel to speak on His behalf. A prophet was someone who heard God and spoke His Word to other people. Prophets fell under strict criticism and were judged on the reliability of their message. If a prophet was not of God, God would allow that false prophet's word to fail. If a prophet was anointed by the Lord, God would not let anything that prophet spoke fall to the ground. Prophets were anointed by the Holy Spirit to hear and speak the Word of God to others. 1 Peter 1:21 says, "No prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

As believers, the Holy Spirit dwells in every one of us. According to Hebrews 1, the Bible teaches that God used to speak to His people through the prophets; however, in this age, God is now speaking to us by His Son, Jesus. The words of Jesus and His apostles are recorded for us in the Scriptures. Because we have the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, we can all speak as prophets! Listen to how Paul encourages the church in 1 Corinthians 14:1: "Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy."

Today's story is another story from the life of Samuel. Samuel was a ruler, priest, and prophet in Israel. This particular story happens when Samuel was a small boy: it is the story of Samuel becoming a prophet. In this story, you will see how God spoke to Samuel and Samuel learned to hear God's voice. Today, as prophets of God, God wants us to learn to listen for His voice and hear Him through His Holy Spirit and His Scriptures. Like Samuel, God wants each of us to learn to be a prophet that speaks His truth to others. This is where our story begins...

12min

Tell the story from 1 Samuel 3:1-20: 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 3:1-20: Ask the group to read these verses.

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

Head
Questions:
Quicker
tempo.

- What does this story teach us about prophets?
- What do you like or dislike about this story? What stands out the most to you?
- 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.

AN OINTED

*The power to perform
your purpose*

Week 4: Gifts of Love in Administration

There are two main points we have covered so far concerning the gift of administration:

1. *Administration is not just a learnable skill, it is also a spiritual gift.*
2. *We must depend on God to be the administrators He has called us to be.*

Today, let's consider the motivation behind growing as an administrator.

According to Paul, the motivation behind every spiritual gift is love. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul outlines the spiritual gifts and the necessity of those gifts in every member in the body of Christ. At the climax of Paul's argument about the importance of spiritual gifts, Paul wrote one of the most poetic and moving passages in the entire New Testament. The passage is 1 Corinthians 13, and we commonly know this passage as the "love chapter."

When we consider that the love chapter was written in the context of spiritual gifts, the motivation and importance of spiritual gifts in the body of Christ becomes evident: *love*. The pursuit of love is the motivation for earnestly desiring the spiritual gifts. Paul affirms this specifically in 1 Corinthians 14:1:

"Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts..." (1 Corinthians 14:1a).

Because administration is a spiritual gift, the motivation to have and use this gift should be *love*. It can be easy for us to assume the motivation behind great administration would be getting a lot done or organizing people to complete a task. But in this passage on spiritual gifts, Paul is not focused primarily on getting things done. Paul's focus is on the necessity of every member in the body of Christ in the way we love one another. In this light, administration is not about projects, it is about loving people.

Administration can be very loving when it is done the right way. Loving administration is not all about the project or task at hand. Yes, projects and tasks are important, but they are not primary. Loving administration prioritizes people over projects. Administration done in love happens when we consider that every meaningful task is done for people and by people. Loving people should always be the aim of what we do as the body of Christ. When we make this shift in our thinking, we approach administration in an entirely different way.

As an administrator of a small group, how do you need to make leading a group less about a goal and more about loving people well? How can you make your group both FOR people and BECAUSE of people?