



## Week 6 (June 3-9): Lesson Guide

**Introduce guests/share life.**

**Cast vision & open in prayer.** Say, "We are all broken people learning to become more like Jesus together."

**Recall the guidelines together.**

**Hook Question:** Have you been baptized in water? If so, share about how you came to be baptized and what it meant to you.

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

In the Bible, there is a New Testament and an Old Testament. The Old Testament uncovers God's revelation of Himself to the world before the arrival of Jesus. The New Testament reveals God's revelation of Himself through Jesus and through the activities of His Holy Spirit in His Church.

In the Old Testament, God's people were told that a Messiah would come to deliver them from their enemies. Many believed that the Messiah would be a warrior who would lead them into battle against other nations that oppressed them. Little did they know that Jesus, the Messiah, would come to defeat life's greatest enemy: sin and death.

God sent a forerunner to announce the arrival of Jesus. His name was John the Baptist. John announced that He was baptizing people with water for repentance from sin, but that the coming Messiah would baptize them with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Did you catch that? There is a baptism of water, but there is also a baptism of the Holy Spirit. Both are very important in Scripture.

In today's story, Jesus was baptized. Not for forgiveness of His sins, but as a foreshadowing of His coming death where He would die for the sins of the world; making a way for all people to be baptized not only with water, but with the Holy Spirit. This baptism would make all who received it new creations in Christ. Those who do not receive it will face judgement and unquenchable fire. This is where our story begins...

**Tell the story from Matthew 3:1-16:** Change up the storyteller often!

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

**Read the story from Matthew 3:1-16:** Ask the group to read together.

**Discuss these questions:**

- Head Questions: Quicker tempo.
  - What do you like or dislike from this story?
  - What does this story teach us about people?
  - God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all present in this story. What does it teach us about God?
  - What do you think it means to be "baptized with the Holy Spirit?"
  - Do you believe you have been baptized with the Holy Spirit?
    - Ask everyone to answer. Follow up with: "Why or why not?"
- Heart Questions: Slow down & wait!
  - How should walking in faith that you have been baptized in the Holy Spirit change the way you live?
- Action
  - What do you need to change based on this story and discussion?
  - Ask someone to retell this week's story one last time.

**Close in prayer.**

**Recruit a storyteller for next week.**

## Week 6: Coaching Guide

### Building a Culture of Relational Disciple-Making

How do we go about building a culture of relational disciple-making in our groups? As a disciple of Jesus and a group leader, this question haunts me at times. I know God is faithful to do His part. I know I can't do the part of others. But what about my part? What has God revealed in His Word and through His Son to guide me to make disciples biblically? I am disenchanted by modern approaches to church via massive organizations. Jesus's example shows a different way... a better way.

1. **It starts with you.** You cannot model biblical discipleship if you are not walking in biblical relationship with God through Jesus. You must fight for faith every day. Faith that there is a heaven and a hell. Faith that Jesus really died and rose. Faith that He commanded you to make disciples as part of His plan to rescue people from the fires of hell. Faith that Satan and demons are going after you and others with all they've got. Faith that, through the power of the Holy Spirit, you will prevail if you do not faint.
2. **It starts with a few.** Don't worry about getting everyone in your group to embrace the culture of real, relational discipleship. Start with one or two. Share your life with them ABUNDANTLY. Be ALL IN with these few. Recruit them to allow you to disciple them. Meet with them weekly outside the meeting. Invite them over for meals. Share the gospel together. Pray together. Study Scripture together. Confess sin and struggles together. Win together. Learn together. Grow together.

Ask yourself this question: "Is there anyone in the world that knows that I am discipling them personally (outside my family)?" If not, make that your first priority. Start with your group and recruit at least one (same gender). After that, move outside your group. Ask God for two, three, four, or five people you can invite into relational discipleship. Have a strategy. How will you share life weekly? Daily? How will you grow real relationships? How will you intentionally lead these people to grow up spiritually? How will you allow God to use them to help you grow up spiritually?

THE TIME IS NOW. Let's go make disciples of Jesus! You are responsible before God for your personal discipleship strategy. Start with His Word. Look at the example of others in His Church that are doing the work. Follow the leadership of His elders who are shepherding you towards His mission. Embrace the call. Go to war. Make disciples of Him.