

Week 4 (February 25 – March 3): Lesson Guide

Introduce guests/share life. *How has this week been going? Good? Bad? Ugly? Things to celebrate?*

Open in prayer. *Include any prayer needs that came up while you were sharing life together.*

Recall the guidelines together. *Ask: "What is the purpose of the guidelines?" Answer: To be relational!*

Hook Question: How have you seen God use your suffering to help others grow in faith?

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

Do you remember the story of Joseph? In short, God used Joseph to save his family and several nations from starvation during a famine. Joseph was faithful to God, and God exalted him to second in command over all Egypt. Joseph had a great relationship with Pharaoh, and Pharaoh honored Joseph for all he did. Joseph's father, Jacob, and his other eleven brothers moved to Egypt during the famine. For years, Joseph's family, also known as the Israelites, prospered and multiplied under Pharaoh in Egypt.

Today's story takes place in Egypt after Joseph's generation died out. Power, greed, fear, pride, and like attitudes corrupt the hearts of men and cause them to be a consumer of others. Moral lines are blurred. The sanctity of life is forgotten. Consumers see others as an object to be used to gratify their own desires. Sin perverts the heart. The same wickedness that has happened throughout history, and the wickedness in this story, is present in our culture today. We are not above other consumers. Our nation is corrupted by sin. Like the nation of Egypt, we need revival to change the tides in this country. This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from Exodus 1:5-22: Change up the storyteller often!

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

Read the story from Exodus 1:5-22: Ask the group to read together.

Discuss these questions:

- What stands out to you in this story? What do you like or dislike?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What does this story teach us about people?
 - What does this story teach us about how consumers abuse children?
- Who do you relate to in this story, and what do you need to change based on this story?
- Ask someone to retell this week's story one last time.

Head

Questions:

Quicker
tempo.

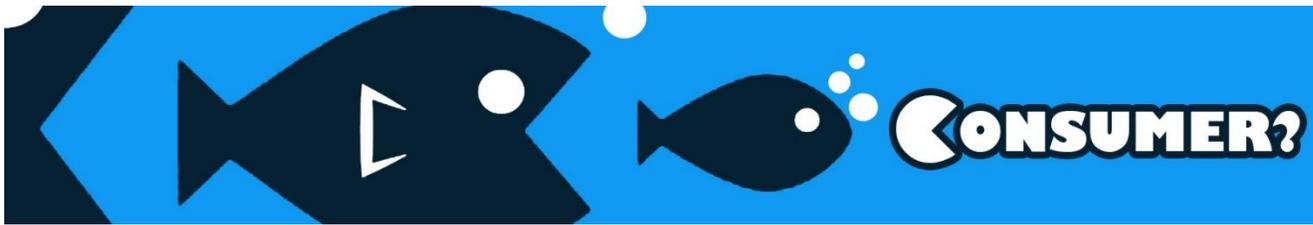
Heart Questions:

Slow down & wait!

Action

Close in prayer.

Recruit a storyteller for next week.



Week 4: Coaching Guide

The Discipleship Process

The *Discipleship Process* is outlined in 201. It shows the journey of spiritual growth that every follower of Jesus must progress through. The process is laid out on the *Discipleship Wheel*. Intentional leaders help people learn the *Discipleship Process*, and they are intentional about helping people move around the wheel towards spiritual maturity.

Spiritual Parents

Adults become parents only through reproduction. Spiritual parents are those who know how to train disciples to make disciples. They know how to reproduce discipleship. Spiritual parents are characterized by reproduction, but they are also characterized by responsibility. They know how to feed themselves spiritually. They know how to engage in Christian community. They care for the lives of those that God has given them to lead. They understand, without doubt, that God has called them to make disciples – first in their small group, but also by serving and working to connect others. They are God and others-centered, and their purpose to help others grow spiritually consumes their thoughts and time. Spiritual parents need three things:

1. Ability to explain the discipleship process
2. Opportunities to disciple (lead) others with help
3. Released to disciple others alone

The greatest battle of a spiritual parent is discouragement. When we say disciple others alone, we do not mean solo. Church is a team sport. At Western Hills, our group leaders all have coaches. These coaches are there for support, encouragement, and to keep leaders connected and on track. Coaches are not alone, either. The coaching team meets together with the Group Pastor throughout the year for encouragement and support. The Group Pastor also isn't alone. He has the coaches, and also has the other elders in our church. Discipling alone doesn't mean by yourself. It means that the discipler has reached a place of spiritual maturity where they are equipped to help others grow without immediate supervision from others.

Leadership Evaluation

Are you a spiritual parent? Being a group leader doesn't make you a spiritual parent. Spiritual parents are defined by the way they reproduce and by the way they take responsibility for the spiritual growth of others. Whether you lead a group right now or not, God wants you to grow into being a spiritual parent. Spiritual parents naturally move into group leadership, because they want to disciple others. Leading a group is a practical way for spiritual parents to follow Jesus' example of discipleship by narrowing the pool to a few people, praying for those people, modeling for those people, sharing truth with those people, and raising them up to do the same for others.

Pause and pray. Ask the Lord to show you your heart. Ask Him to help you grow as a discipleship leader and to give you the heart of a spiritual parent.