



Intelectual Honesty

Evidence that demands a verdict.

Week 5: April 28 – May 4

20min

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

2min

Share the Vision: *Our goal in group is to form real-life relationships. Relationships where we can be totally honest with others & they are totally honest with us. That starts by sharing transparently & listening well.*

4min

Hook Question: What is one of the most amazing things you have ever experienced or seen in person?

5min

Recall last week's story: The Disciples See the Resurrected Jesus (Luke 24:36-48).

5min

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

Last week's story sets up the background for this week's story. The two are connected in the Scriptures.

Before we can understand this story, we need to understand what Jesus's disciples expected from Him before they received the Holy Spirit. The disciples were Jews. Jews lived in Israel. However, that region had been conquered by the Roman Empire. They taxed the Jews heavily and disrupted their traditions and habits of worship. The Jews were in bondage to the Romans and they wanted to be free. They believed that Jesus was the Messiah who would deliver Israel from the Romans. They were thinking so small! Jesus did not come to change their political climate. Jesus came to deliver them from Satan and to establish His new Kingdom through the Church! A Kingdom that would prevail over the powers of Satan and sin forever.

In today's story the Holy Spirit had not yet arrived. So, the disciples did not fully understand God's plan to change them by His Spirit and send them out as disciple-makers to reach the nations for Christ. This important detail explains why the disciples asked Jesus the question they asked in the story today. With this in our minds, it is time for our story to begin...

10min

Tell the story from Acts 1:4-12: *Use different storytellers. Teach your group to share God's Word.*

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

Read the story from Acts 1:4-12: *Ask the group to read these verses.*

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

Head
Questions:
Quicker
tempo.

- What do you like or dislike about this story?
- What does this story teach us about people?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What part of this story can you relate to the most? Why?

Heart & Hand
Questions:
Slow down &
wait!

- What do you think God is trying to show you right now? How do you need to change?
- 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.



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Week 5: The Group Guidelines

Group Guidelines: Share the Air

Monopolizing

Nothing will kill the relational environment of a small group quite like monopolizing. When a person continues to dominate the space by oversharing, it frustrates some and makes others shut down. We must learn to facilitate groups that share the air.

Sharing the Air in Group

How do we help others share the air in small group?

1. **Set the expectations.** Review the guidelines at the beginning of every group. Help group members remember that these guidelines allow us to create a relational environment where we can all be transparent and share.
2. **Cast vision.** Remind the group to aim for the right goal. Our goal in group is forming real-life relationships. This happens as we ask good questions, listen to others, and share transparently. We need all three parts to help us grow spiritually.
3. **Help people summarize.** People often overshare because they do not know how to summarize what they are feeling. Let them finish when they are talking and thank them for sharing. Then ask them, “How might you summarize what you just shared in a sentence or two? How does it relate to our question?” Asking these leading questions can help people recognize when they are not being clear and learn to summarize well.
4. **Engage the silent.** When people are silent in a group they often need encouragement to share. You must be sensitive to the situation to know the best way to engage them. Sometimes you could ask, “Steve, what are your thoughts about this question?” That may be all the help they need. Another tactic that can help you engage those who are less likely to assert themselves is to say, “This has been some great sharing. Let’s all pause for a second and see if there is anyone else in the group that hasn’t shared much that would like to weigh in on this question.”
5. **Resolve conflict biblically.** Go back to the lesson guide from a couple of weeks ago to learn more about how to do this. If someone is oversharing and doesn’t respond to our facilitating, then we may need to approach them one-to-one. See the coaching guide from two weeks ago to learn how to do this the way Jesus taught us to do it.

Other common pitfalls:

- Watch for “ping-ponging” (i.e. – two people monopolizing back and forth).
- Keep the focus on sharing personally, not lecturing (use “I” statements).