

# COMMUNITY

## Week 2: Coaching Guide

For the next few weeks, we will be taking a closer look at our 5 group goals for 2016 (The Kingdom Way). This week, let's look closer at **Goal #1: Reaching Your Neighborhood...**

**Leading** [learn to facilitate your group more effectively]

- Our strategy for this goal is simple –work together as a team to accomplish *Essential #2: Reaching the Lost* in your neighborhood (or in the neighborhood where your team meets).
- Certainly, this goal does not mean that we should stop reaching out to other types of “neighbors” (i.e. – coworkers, people at our kids’ sporting events, etc.). Goal #1 simply provides a target area for your team to reach together.
- Start by narrowing down your target area. Chose a street or a few houses that your team and your family will focus on sharing Jesus with this year. From there, here are a few steps to get you started...
  1. **Pray.** Spend time praying for your target area with your family and your group family.
  2. **Calendar.** Calendar your first outreach event. It could be delivering a bag of goodies and introducing yourself, hosting a block party with hotdogs and activities for the kids, etc. Try to schedule your first outreach event before Easter Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.
  3. **Easter Invites.** Make plans to return to each home the week before Easter and invite your neighbors to the service at Western Hills Church.
- **There is power in teamwork:**
  1. You do not have to reach your neighborhood alone! Church is a team sport. Work with your team.
  2. We currently have 21 groups. If all our groups reached out to their neighbors before Easter and only 25% of those groups had a neighbor agree to attend the Easter service with them, we would have about 5 new families at church on Easter Sunday!!

**Shepherding** [know the sheep, feed the sheep, lead the sheep, protect the sheep]

- In the Scripture, biblical community is formed when people agree with God and work together to accomplish His purposes for their life (be conformed into the image of Christ and be His disciples).
- It is so easy for your group to establish community around something other than God’s purposes. It is easy for a group to make fellowship the basis for community. Yes, fellowship is part of biblical community, but it is not the basis. The Great Commission is the basis for community in the church! Biblical community is driven by God’s mission for His church.
- As a shepherd, it is your job to lead your group towards biblical community. Sheep like to wander, and shepherds call them home. You can lead your group to live out this type of community by praying together for your target area, meeting 1-to-1 with your team members to share life, and scheduling events where your team will work together to reach the lost.

**Developing** [grow as a disciple yourself]

I was recently spending time with the Lord one morning when I started to feel overwhelmed. I thought about the task that I have been assigned: *engage the church to spend their lives dedicated to the Great Commission without receiving any monetary compensation.* This is an overwhelming thought. I can’t make a single disciple fulfill God’s purpose for their life. If my job is to do the work of an elder and shepherd God’s people to be conformed into the image of Christ and to be His witnesses (Rom. 8:29, Acts 1:8, Eph. 4:12), then this job is way outside my capability!

That is when the Lord reminded me of Zech. 4:6 – “Not by might or by power, but by my Spirit says the Lord Almighty.” I will never be able to accomplish God’s purpose for my life alone, and neither will you. We are dependent on the Holy Spirit. Will you let the Spirit control you, lead you, and guide you? Will you embrace biblical community by engaging in the Great Commission with your team? Let’s make 2016 a year of no regrets. Let’s embrace who we are in Christ and be His church – and the gates of hell will not prevail against us.



## Week 2 (January 10-16): Lesson Guide

**Open In Prayer**

**Welcome/Introductions**

**Ask the group to recall the guidelines for discussion that we use to create a safe environment.**

**Ask someone to retell last week's story from Genesis 2:18-24 ("It is not good...").**

**Ask someone on your team to read the Hook Question** – Ask, "Share about a community you felt closest to outside your family. What made that community so strong?"

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

In 2 Corinthians 6:14, the Scriptures admonish believers to not become unequally yoked with an unbeliever. A yoke is an implement that is used to harness animals together to pull a load or a plow. The yoke is a familiar and useful tool to farming societies. This device is used to join a pair of animals, like oxen, to work together, simultaneously.

In this passage, Paul is encouraging believers to not enter into a binding relationship with unbelievers that depends on unity in purpose and in mission. This could include marriage, business partnerships, leadership roles, etc. Today's story is a great example of a marriage that is unequally yoked. David and Michal did not share the same heart when it came to worshiping God. As a result, there was tension in their marriage. One day, David was bringing the ark of the Lord into Jerusalem. As he entered he began to worship the Lord while Michal was looking on. This is where our story begins...

**Tell the story from 2 Samuel 6:16-23**

**Rebuild the story** – (Group members retell the story based on what they remember)

**Read 2 Samuel 6:16-23** – (Ask the group to read these verses)

**Discuss these questions:**

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| Head Questions:<br>Quicker tempo.     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● What do you like about this story, and is there anything you dislike?</li><li>● Based on this story, how does it appear Michal and David were unequally yoked in their marriage?</li><li>● Based on the consequences, do you think the Lord was pleased with Michal or David's view?</li><li>● If you are already unequally yoked in marriage, what should you do? (Read 1 Cor. 7:12-16)</li></ul> |
| Heart Questions:<br>Slow down & wait! | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● How do you relate to this story?</li><li>● Young, single people, how should this story impact the way you chose a marriage partner?</li></ul>  |

**Ask for a volunteer to retell the story one last time.**

**Ask for a volunteer to tell the story next week.**

**Prayer Requests** (ask someone in the group to take notes so you can email the requests to the group)

**Pray and Dismiss**