

COMMUNITY

Week 4: Coaching Guide

For the next few weeks, we will continue to take a closer look at our 5 group goals for 2016 (The Kingdom Way). This week, let's look closer at **Goal #3: Connect New People...**

Leading [learn to facilitate your group more effectively]

- Connecting new people to your group means becoming intentional about the kind of community you are cultivating. Start by asking this question: "Do my current team members feel like our group is a place where they can bring others?" Why or why not?
- Your team will want to invite people to your group if they feel like your group is a place that is welcoming and accepting of new people. To create this environment, your group must center their community on God's mission for His church: reaching the lost and making disciples. Your community can be centered around many good things but miss the heart of God for His church entirely. Center your community around Jesus' mission. Lead your team to reach new people.
- This April is Mission Month. In April, all our groups will host one outreach event where they will encourage the members of their group to invite guests. Start talking about this and planning your event with your group.

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

- Throughout the year, our church will be hosting the 101: Newcomers Class. This class creates the perfect opportunity to invite a friend to church. Our next class is scheduled for February 28th. Encourage your group to use every 101: Newcomers Class as a reminder and opportunity to invite someone new to attend our weekend service.
- In the next couple weeks, we will be mailing out IMPACT cards. IMPACT cards are a tool used by each member of our church to begin praying for their friends who are lost or not attending church. The IMPACT cards will encourage our people to pray for their friends, be relational with those friends, then invite their friends to our Easter service on March 27th. Please begin praying about who you will put on your IMPACT card and make plans to lead by example.

Developing [grow as a disciple yourself]

Connecting new people means having a heart that has not turned inward but is focused on the Great Commission.

Matthew 5:14-16

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Matthew 9:36-38

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Do you share Jesus' heart for the outcast, the helpless, and the harassed? Being conformed into the image of Christ means aligning your heart for others with His heart for His lost sheep. He leaves the 99 to find the 1. How does the Lord want to use you to connect others to team discipleship in groups and to His church body at Western Hills in 2016?



Week 4 (January 24-30): 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 11:1-9 (The Tower of Babel).

Ask someone on your team to read the Hook Question – Ask, “Who do you know that is a strong team player? What is it about them that makes them valuable to their team?”

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

In the year 586 B.C., the walls of Jerusalem fell to the Babylonian empire. The Jewish people were captured and exiled from their land. After some time, God made provision for the Jewish people to return to their homeland. Nehemiah, a Jewish slave and a cupbearer for the king of Persia, was granted the right by the king to return to Jerusalem and help rebuild the city. When he arrived, the first order of business was to secure the city by restoring its walls.

Nehemiah divided the people into groups by their clans. He then assigned each clan a portion of the massive wall for them to rebuild. Their efforts did not go unnoticed. Enemies in surrounding areas heard that the Jews were rebuilding. At first the enemies did not believe the Jews could complete their task, but when they realized the walls were half built they gathered their army to go up against the Jews. Several Jews from neighboring areas came and pleaded with Nehemiah to give up before their enemies destroyed them. However, Nehemiah had another idea. This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from Nehemiah 4:13-23

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

Read Nehemiah 4:13-23 – (Ask the group to read these verses)

Discuss these questions:

- Read the rest of the story in Nehemiah 6:15-16, then proceed with your discussion...
- What did you like about this story, and is there anything you disliked?
- Compare this story of building the wall to the story of building the tower told last week. What makes this story different?
- What does this story teach us about people?
- How do you relate to this story?
- What do you need to change in order to become a better team player?

Head
Questions:
Quicker
tempo.

Heart Question:
Slow down & wait!

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