

COMMUNITY

Week 5: Coaching Guide

We only have 2 more of our 5 group goals for 2016 to cover. This week, let's look closer at **Goal #4: Branching Your Group...**

Leading [learn to facilitate your group more effectively]

- It is impossible to branch a group without a vision to advance the kingdom and without an intentional leader to lead the new group (or take over the old group while the current leader goes to start a new one).
 1. Advancing the Kingdom: Biblical community is always established on God's purpose and mission. God's covenant with Israel was established on God's purpose and mission for them, and God's covenant with His church is established on God's purpose and mission for us. God's purpose is that we would be conformed into the image of Jesus, and His mission is that we would make disciples and help them grow into the image of Jesus. Each group community must share this heart to be disciples who make disciples, or a group will get comfortable where they are and never branch. (If you remember, this principle goes back to *Essential #2: We will reach the lost.*)
 2. Raising Up New Leaders: Although everyone can participate in team discipleship by being part of a group, not everyone can lead a group (see my newsletter article in February's edition). However, we also know that, without new group leaders, team discipleship in groups cannot continue. Therefore, our model for leading a group is simple and reproducible. In order for your group to branch, it is important that you identify and recruit someone to train under your leadership. Find that person and begin to share life with them. More in the next section...

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

- If you recall, raising up new leaders goes back to *Essential #6: We will identify, equip, and release new leaders*. There are many ways you can work towards this goal with your group...
 1. Meet one-to-one with someone you have identified as a potential leader. Schedule a weekly breakfast, lunch, or dinner where you will help them grow spiritually by learning to deepen their personal walk with Jesus, as well as talk about group and pray together for your group.
 2. Equip your potential leader by going through the Real Life Discipleship Training Manual together. You can purchase a copy on Amazon. If money is tight, our church can provide a book for you.
 3. Share life with your potential leader (and their family, if they are married). Have them over for dinner, play some games, go visit a group member in the hospital together, etc.
 4. Give your potential leader opportunities to play in the game. Make sure they are facilitating, telling the story, heading up part of the group organization, hosting the group in their home, etc.
 5. Pray for this potential group leader often!!

Developing [grow as a disciple yourself]

2 Timothy 2: 2 says, "And the things you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." God has ordained that His Kingdom would grow and advance through men who would lead His church. This leadership grows and continues as leaders teach other men the Kingdom Way. As the leader of a group, are you faithfully identifying, equipping, and releasing new leaders?

If you don't have a plan right now that's okay. Talk to your coach and make one! Whether your group branches into two everyone groups or starts a new men's only or ladies' only group, pray and ask God to lead you to branch this year.

Attached to this email is our Coaches' Guide for Branching a Group. It is written to our coaches, but it will be a valuable resource for you to examine as you pray and talk about branching with your coach.

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Week 5 (January 31 - February 6): 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 Nehemiah 4:13-23 (building the wall).

Ask someone on your team to read the Hook Question – Ask, “Have you ever prayed with others in community and then experienced a significant answer to your prayers?”

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

Let's start with a little history about kingship in Israel. For three generations, Israel was united under one king (Saul, David, and Solomon). After Solomon's reign, the nation of Israel split into two kingdoms: the northern kingdom (Israel), and the southern kingdom (Judah). The northern kingdom had only evil kings from its conception until its fall to the Assyrian army in 722 B.C.; however, the southern kingdom had a mixture of good kings and bad kings. All the kings of the southern kingdom were from the line of David.

Today's story is about King Jehoshaphat of the southern kingdom of Judah. Jehoshaphat reigned from 907 B.C. to 848 B.C. He was not a perfect king, but his heart was to seek God. Jehoshaphat made some mistakes; at one point he allied with Ahab, perhaps the wickedest king in the history of the northern kingdom of Israel. In spite of his mistakes, during his reign, Jehoshaphat led Israel to worship God. He removed the high places of idol worship for Judah. He also commissioned prophets to go throughout Judah, teaching the Law of God. Additionally, he developed a judicial system and appointed judges who would judge rightly and fear the Lord. Though he was not perfect, God was with Jehoshaphat because his heart was to seek God and lead the people to seek God. One day, towards the end of his reign, Jehoshaphat found himself and his kingdom in great trouble. This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from 2 Chronicles 20:1-30

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

Read 2 Chronicles 20:1-30 – (Ask the group to read these verses)

Discuss these questions:

Head
Questions:
Quicker
tempo.

- What did you like about this story, and is there anything you disliked?
- How many examples of community in worship do you see in this story?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What does this story teach us about people?

Heart Question:
Slow down & wait!

- How do you relate to this story?
- What do you need to change based on this story?

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