

COMMUNITY

Week 9: Coaching Guide

This week, we will continue looking at the 10 characteristics of a team player as they relate to group leaders. **Characteristic #3:** *Team players are willing to accept the role they are given on the team...*

Leading [learn to facilitate your group more effectively]

- **Acts 20:28** (Paul speaking to the elders): "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**, to **shepherd** the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."
- **1 Timothy 5:17:** The elders who **rule** well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.
- **1 Timothy 3:1:** The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of **overseer** (also translated *bishop* or *elder*), he desires a noble task.
- **1 Peter 5:1-4:** Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, **shepherd** the flock of God among you, **exercising oversight** not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.

(all **emphasis** added)

- As a Group Leader at Western Hills Church, your biblical authority to be the intentional leader of your group comes from the biblical authority of our elders.
- As a man or woman under authority, it is vital that you willingly accept the role that you have been assigned by our leadership. Being a team player means working inside your jurisdiction to fulfill all the responsibilities you have been assigned and have agreed to carry out.
- When you have questions about your role or assignments, seek clarity by working with your coach. They have received authority from our leadership to guide you as you shepherd your group.

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

- Authority is a touchy issue in the church. American culture is, by nature, a very individualistic culture. However, we see in Scripture a picture of teamwork and submission that takes place under biblical authority:
 1. Jesus submitted to the Father, to government authorities, and to religious authorities.
 2. The disciples worked under Jesus' authority.
 3. Apostles were given authority by Jesus to continue His work in extraordinary ways.
 4. Elders were given authority by the apostles and by other elders to exercise oversight.
 5. Deacons were given authority by church leadership to oversee the material needs of the church.
 6. The church understood that they were all one body and under the headship of Christ. They also understood that God led through His appointed leaders.
- To function properly as a team, it is vital that we each accept and carry out the roles that have been assigned to us by our authorities. It is equally vital that our authorities do not abuse their position to seek personal gain, but rather to provide an example to the flock (1 Pet. 5:4).

Developing [grow as a disciple yourself]

Are you a man or woman under authority?

Titus 3:1:

Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work,

It is impossible to read the Bible (both Old and New Testament) and conclude that God does not work through human authorities! Have you resisted authority due to a personal belief or perception? You have a responsibility to go to that authority, seek forgiveness, and work together towards a solution. Trust God by trusting His leadership through His authorities!

Community: Being a Team Player

Pastor Jerry Wells - January 24, 2016

3. Team players are willing to accept the role they are given on the team

One of the powers God gives to government is to determine our role on the team. God was very specific about the roles of husbands, wives, and children in the family (Ephesians 5:22-6:4).

In other forms of government God gives those in power a lot of latitude to determine the roles subordinates will play.

It can be very frustrating to be in a role that you do not want and it can be very disheartening when you are not chosen for a role you do want.

We tend to look at the role and what we think we do best. Those in government look at the bigger picture.

There are no perfect authority figures. Even the best ones will make errors in judgment. God uses these errors to accomplish His mission in our life; to make us like Jesus.

Jesus was never given by mankind the role that He was best suited to fulfill; King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Jesus emptied Himself.

Phil. 2:5-8

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

NKJV

God the Father used the errors in men's judgment to fulfill the mission He had for Jesus. He will do the same in our life. Jesus trusted God the Father and fulfilled the role He was given. This is called meekness.

To be a team player we must develop the character of meekness.



Week 9 (February 28 - March 5): 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 Mark 14:32-42 (Jesus in the Garden)

Ask someone on your team to read the Hook Question – “This week marks our 9th and final week of our series on *Community*. What has been your greatest take-a-way up to this point? (Series Topic Reminders: God’s mission for community, marriage, power of community, being a team player, reaching the lost together, trusting God’s Words together, and being transparent.)

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

Today’s story is the story of Jesus’ first encounter with His group of disciples after His resurrection. First words in moments like these are very revealing, and Jesus had an important message to reveal to His disciples about His plan for their group.

Just before His death, Jesus had prayed for His disciples and for all His future disciples (that includes us in this group today): “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, **so that the world may believe that you have sent me**. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, **I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me**” (John 17:20-23).

With these words, Jesus prepared their hearts for what He was about to tell the group at His first meeting after His resurrection. This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from John 20:19-22

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

Read John 20:19-22 – (Ask the group to read these verses)

Discuss these questions:

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| Head Questions:
Quicker tempo. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What do you like about the story and is there anything you dislike?• This was Jesus’ first group meeting after His resurrection. Why do you think He chose these words?• What does this story teach us about God? (Remember, Jesus is God.)• What does this story teach us about the church? (Remember, Jesus used these guys to launch His church.) |
| Heart Questions:
Slow down & wait! | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read verse 21 carefully. What are the implications of this verse for our group?• Consider your individual resources, giftings, talents, and skills. How does God want you to specifically use these in community? |

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

Some background on Jesus' words to the disciples on forging sins and retaining sins...

We thought this question might come up in group, so we wanted to give you a little additional insight to consider...

John 20:19-23

Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." 20 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. 21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 *If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.*"

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Some additional commentary from the desk of Pastor Jerry Wells...

These 11 apostles of Jesus were given authority in the church that no one else received after them. They were given the authority to perform the signs of an apostle.

They were given the authority to bind and to loose. This is the language that the Jews would use to ordain a rabbi and it is only used in Matthew which is the gospel to the Jews. It meant the apostles were given authority to determine right and wrong for the church of Jesus Christ. Peter was the first to receive this authority because he was the first to declare the deity and divinity of Jesus Christ. What Peter loosed, declared as necessary to be believed and practiced by the disciples here, was ratified by God. And what he declared unlawful to be believed and practiced (i.e. what he bound), was actually forbidden by God himself.

They were given the authority to turn wayward members of the church over to Satan for the destruction of their flesh so that their soul could be saved.

They were given authority to forgive the sins of any and the authority to retain the sins of any. In other words they were given the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Peter was also the first to be entrusted with the keys of the kingdom of heaven to the Jews and then the gentiles. He used those keys at Pentecost with the Jews and then with the household of Cornelius for the Gentiles to receive forgiveness of sins.

Our faith in Jesus is founded on this authority that was given to the apostles.

The apostles ordained elders in the church. Elders were under the authority of the apostles. Elders ruled in the church in their city and elders watched over the souls of their flock in their city; but the apostles were their authority for what they believed and what they practiced.

God forbid that any elder should claim the authority of the apostles.

We have the decisions of the apostles: what they bound and what they loosed, what they said was lawful and what they said was unlawful, recorded for us in Acts and the Epistles.