

COMMUNITY

Week 6: Coaching Guide

This week we took a closer look at our final goal for 2016: **Goal #5: Meet for 1-to-1 discipleship...**

Leading [learn to facilitate your group more effectively]

- 1-to-1 discipleship can play so many important roles in the life of your group:
 - Meeting with new Christians who need help learning to abide in Christ.
 - Meeting with a newlywed couple to help them out with financial management.
 - Meeting for accountability with a person struggling with addictive behavior.
 - Meeting with a potential future leader to work through the Discipleship Training Manual and begin developing their leadership skills.
- These are just a few examples of the value 1-to-1 discipleship can add to your group! Obviously, 1-to-1 discipleship is not a substitute for group discipleship; we still need to engage in discipleship with our church family. However, 1-to-1 discipleship can be an invaluable tool for strengthening relationships and helping others grow in spiritual maturity.
- The best way to move your group towards 1-to-1 discipleship is to start growing in it yourself. Meet 1-to-1 with another person for the purpose of helping them grow spiritually. Not only will you help them grow spiritually, but you will be blessed equally by the relationship you develop with the person you disciple!
- Once you start to meet, cast vision about discipleship with your group. Share some of the benefits of 1-to-1 discipleship listed above, then give a challenge to your group... Encourage anyone who feels like they could use a hand up spiritually or practically to ask someone on your group to start meeting with them.

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

- Discipleship is not the end; rather, it is God's means to His end. The purpose of discipleship is that we would be conformed into the image of Christ (Rom. 8:29) and that we would make more disciples of Jesus (Matt. 28:19-20).
- In His Word, God has called every believer to grow as a disciple and make more disciples. There are many ways to engage others in discipleship. However, the only way to engage every believer in the church in making disciples is through team discipleship. When we work as a team, everyone has a chance to get in the game.
- 1-to-1 discipleship is a very biblical and impactful way to make disciples. The practice of making disciples 1-to-1 should develop out of the discipleship that occurs in a team. Team discipleship = church. When we are living out the Kingdom Way in our church, we will see people grow spiritually and begin to help others grow spiritually.

Developing [grow as a disciple yourself]

Group = Team Discipleship = Church. These are all different terms to describe the same biblical principle. As a group leader, you are a leader in the church. Your primary role is to 1) facilitate a weekly meeting where team discipleship can occur, 2) provide intentional leadership that will encourage spiritual growth and loving one another among the members of your team, and 3) raise up new leaders and lead them to do the same.

Do you ever get discouraged by your role? You are not alone. As spiritual leaders, we take on the role of caring for the spiritual condition of others. Hebrews 13:17 says that we watch over the souls of others as "those who must give an account." Anyone who takes ownership in their assignment to manage the affairs of another person will feel stress about their role from time to time. As you care for God's people, you will undoubtedly feel anxious, stressed, and discouraged at times. Take a moment to rest in these words of Jesus:

- "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Heb. 13:5).
- "I am with you always, even to the ends of the earth" (Matt. 28:20).
- "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matt. 11:29).



Week 6 (February 7-13): 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 2 Chronicles 20:1-30 (Jehoshaphat & community worship).

Ask someone on your team to read the Hook Question – “Share a time when you have worked together with a team to meet a meaningful need for someone else.”

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

Today's story is about a group of friends who worked together in community on behalf of another. This event took place towards the beginning of Jesus' ministry on the earth, sometime between 26-30 A.D. The story takes place in Jesus' hometown of Capernaum, just off the coast of the Sea of Galilee. These Bible locations are real! Capernaum is a known biblical site, so just type Capernaum into Google Maps to see it.

In today's story, some friends work together to bring a paralytic man to Jesus. In biblical terms, paralytics were people who were paralyzed from at least the waist down. Because of the nature of the economy in Jesus' day, being a paralytic almost certainly meant you would live out your days as a poor person begging in the streets. Paralytics were often dependent on the help of others to move from place to place. Because medical technology was so primitive, most paralytics never recovered from their paralysis.

Tell the story from Mark 2:1-12

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

Read Mark 2:1-12 – (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?
- Without the help of his friends, what would have been the likely fate of the paralytic?
- What does this story teach us about God?

- How do you relate to this story?
- What would need to change in our group so that we could be more effective in helping others come to Jesus?
- What do you need to change in order to be more like the friends of the paralytic in this story?

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