



## Week 5: Coaching Guide

**Leading** [learn to facilitate spiritual growth in your group more effectively]

This week we will take a little time to consider the art of facilitating and asking great questions.

**As the intentional leader of your group, it is up to you to ask the right questions.**

**Consider the following tips...**

- **Start with the curriculum.** Every Monday at 4:00pm a group of men from our church meet together to discuss the curriculum, story, theme, and questions that will be asked in our groups. These questions are not just drawn out of a hat. They are prayerfully considered and developed strategically. Before you change anything start by benefiting from the collective wisdom of these men! (If you are interested in joining our sermon club every Tuesday contact Brandon Werner for details.)
- **Pray through the questions before group starts.** Whether you or someone else is facilitating, do your best to avoid reading or hearing the questions for the first time in group. Spend time praying through the questions and thinking about them. This will help you be more prepared to model sharing transparently and it will also help you think about how you need to present the questions to your group.
- **Start general, get specific.** You will notice that most of our questions are general. This is by design. The more specific you get, the more you leave people out who are not dealing with the specific issues in the questions. However, you know your group. Take time to consider if you need to ask a specific question. For example, we may ask “What sin issues are you battling right now?” You may want to start by asking that question but then add, “Is anyone battling with a secret sin issue?” or “Is anyone battling with a sexual sin issue?” Taking the question to the next level can be a great way to encourage transparency.
- **Ask clarifying questions.** People will tend to share generic answers to generic questions – that is the natural tendency! Be prepared to ask clarifying questions. For example, if someone answers a question about a sin issue by saying, “I have been struggling with some sexual sins,” be ready to ask questions like, “What sexual sins have you been facing recently?” or “How long have you been battling sexual sins?” or “We battle sexual sins on three battlefields: our minds, our eyes, and our actions. Which battles are you fighting right now?” or (after they have shared more about their struggles) “What typically triggers your battle with sexual sins? What drives you to act out?” Notice that these questions avoid fixing! A bad question that would include fixing would be something like “Don’t you think that your battle with sexual sins is probably related to the fact that you have been skipping group and not reading your Bible?” That is a terrible question because it includes judgement and fixing.

- **Let the Holy Spirit lead.** You don't always have to add something to the questions. Often all you need to do is ask the questions in the curriculum and let the Holy Spirit work. Always remember that, ultimately, it is not the questions that change people but it is the Holy Spirit working through His Church. Become as skilled as possible in the art of question asking, but stay dependent on Jesus for discipleship and change in your group!

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

The best way to develop your skills as a facilitator and in asking great questions is to practice the skill! The two best places for you to do that (outside of group) are 1) during your quiet time with Jesus and 2) when you meet one-to-one for discipleship.

Ask Jesus questions in your quiet time, then pause and listen. Ask yourself questions based on what you are reading in God's Word, then pause and listen. Questions are a great way to interact with the Lord.

In one-to-one discipleship learn to ask even deeper questions. You don't have to worry about the person you are meeting with monopolizing the time because it is just the two of you! You should be concerned about you talking too much. One-to-one discipleship should always start with you asking lots of questions and listening. They should do most of the talking in most situations. Save your comments for when they ask you questions or to speak a word of truth at the end of the meeting.



## Week 5 (September 25 - October 1): 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 the story from last week (an extremely perverted sexual sin in the church).**

**Ask the Hook Question:** “What’s been happening in your life? Good news? Hard news? Something to celebrate? Something difficult you need prayer for?”

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

Have you heard of an IQ test? Did you know there is such a thing as an EQ test? EQ is an abbreviation for “emotional quotient.” A person’s EQ is defined as: “a measure of a person’s adequacy in such areas as self-awareness, empathy, and dealing sensitively with other people.”

Part of maturing in Christ is developing the ability to overcome the incredible influence of your emotions. This is not to say that emotions are always wrong, but it is to say that we should be controlled by the Spirit of God rather than our emotions and feelings. In order to get a grip on our emotions we must develop the ability to be self-aware, which was the first quality identified in the EQ definition. Becoming self-aware means that we are not so wrapped up in our own ideas and feelings that we can’t get outside of them to evaluate how others perceive us or to learn what God wants to teach us.

Today’s story deals with an EQ problem in Jesus’ disciple, Peter. The setting is the night of Jesus’ betrayal, just before the guards came to capture Him and ultimately take Him to the cross. Jesus is speaking with His disciples to share with them things that are about to happen. As a spiritual parent, Jesus makes an observation about Peter – this is where our story begins...

**Tell the story from Luke 22:31-34**

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

**Read Luke 22:31-34** – (Ask the group to read these verses)

**Discuss these questions:**

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| <p>Head Questions:<br/>Quicker tempo.</p>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finish the story before you discuss it. Read Luke 22:54-62 to see how the story ends.</li> <li>• What do you notice about Peter’s EQ in this story when it comes to his own self-awareness?</li> <li>• What do you like or dislike about this story?</li> <li>• What does this story teach us about people?</li> </ul>             |
| <p>Heart Questions:<br/>Slow down &amp; wait!</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blind spots are hard because, by definition, we don’t know what they are. The truth is we all have blind spots. Let’s pause and listen for the Holy Spirit. Ask Him to reveal a blind spot to you.</li> <li>• What blind spot is the Holy Spirit revealing to you? How do you think it has impacted your relationships?</li> </ul> |
| <p>Action Lines</p>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Action Step:</b> Whose forgiveness do you need to seek based on the blind spot God is revealing to you?</li> <li>• Practice sharing Jesus! Who can retell this week’s Bible story to our group?</li> <li>• Go share Jesus this week! Invite others to group and share this Bible story with someone else.</li> </ul>            |

**Series Memory Verse:** Ephesians 4:15, “speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.” (See who would like to recite this on their own.)

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

**Pray for one another based on today’s discussion.**

**Keep your group connected before you dismiss** (review announcements at [www.westernhillchurch.com/rightnow](http://www.westernhillchurch.com/rightnow)).