



## Week 8: Coaching Guide

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

### Branching your group...

- **Capitalizing on the story.** This week's story is about Saul. Saul had received a call from the Lord to lead others, but he was hiding behind the baggage. This is the exact situation of many in our church! God has called each of us to grow up in Jesus. God has called each of us to use our giftings to lead others to grow up in Jesus. Yet many never use their giftings to their full potential to start leading others. They are "hiding behind the baggage."
- **Be bold.** We strongly urge you to consider asking your group if God has placed it on anyone's heart to lead a group. If you enter your group meeting armed with this question, the story and discussion will create a natural opportunity to bring this topic up. Be bold and speak out when the moment arises!
- **Message on Sunday.** The message this Sunday will also deal with the importance of growing spiritually and stepping out to lead others spiritually. We will be calling people to be group leaders this week in the service! Encourage your group to attend this Sunday, especially those that you believe God wants to lead a group in the future.
- **Next Steps.** If you end up with anyone in your group who expresses interest in leading a group, here is what you should do: 1) Celebrate with them! Taking that step is a big deal. 2) Set up a meeting. Ask them if you can get with them soon to grab lunch, eat dinner, etc. At that meeting, plan to hear what is on their heart and encourage them as they work towards their goal. 3) Inform your coach. If at all possible, talk to your coach in person or over the phone before your meeting to get their input on things you should cover with them when you meet. 4) Invite them to the next group leader branching event. Our next event is called our Group Leadership Appetizer and it is scheduled for November 6 (immediately following the service). Ask the interested prospect to attend the meeting with you. Sign up by informing our group pastor (Brandon Werner).

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

Do you believe in growing the kingdom by reproducing leaders and launching new groups? Hopefully each one of us would *say* yes to this question. However, do we *live* like we believe this is true? Branching a group takes work and effort. The first candidate does not always work out. You must be tenacious in order to lead your group to branch! At the same time, you must also walk in the Spirit by showing love, patience, and gentleness as you coach others towards starting a group. Check your heart and ask the Lord to fire you up about leading a group! Then work on the steps listed above.



## Week 8 (October 16-22): 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 (The Holy Spirit and Barnabas in Antioch).**

**Ask the Hook “Question”:** “When have you hidden from someone because you knew they would ask you to do something? Explain.”

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

Saul was the first king of the nation of Israel. Before the appointment of Saul, God ruled over His people and used judges to lead His people. However, the nation of Israel decided to reject God’s sole leadership and asked for a human king. God decided to grant them their request.

God sent the prophet, Samuel, to anoint Saul to be the first king of Israel. Saul was a handsome young man, and he was taller than everyone else from his shoulders upward. When Samuel found Saul, he anointed him with oil to signify that he was the one God chose to become the first king of Israel. Samuel proceeded to offer Saul three signs to confirm that he would, in fact, become the next king of Israel. All the bazar signs that Samuel offered Saul came to pass that very day! God’s prophet had spoken it, Saul had been anointed, and the Lord had confirmed it through amazing signs. All that was left was for Saul to be chosen and appointed among the people. So, Samuel gathered the people together before the Lord at Mizpah. This is where our story begins...

**Tell the story from 1 Samuel 10:17-26**

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

**Read 1 Samuel 10:17-26** – (Ask the group to read these verses)

**Discuss these questions:**

- What do you like about this story? Is there anything you dislike?
- What does this story teach us about people?
  - What does this story teach us about how people respond to God’s calling on their life?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- Who do you relate to in this story?
- Baggage takes many forms in our lives. What has God called you to do that you have not yet done? What baggage (or excuses) are you hiding behind?
- What do you need to change based on this story and discussion?
- Practice sharing Jesus! Who can retell this week’s Bible story to our group?
- Continue the discussion! Keep sharing this story and what you are learning with others this week.

Head Questions: Quicker tempo.

Heart Question: Slow down & wait!

Action Lines

**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.” (Last week! Can you all say it?)

**Ask for a volunteer to tell the Bible story next week. (Consider having your apprentice facilitate.)**

**Prayer:** First, pray for one another based on today’s discussion. Close by praying for any other needs in the group.

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