



# My Story

Living the story you want to tell

## Week 3: Coaching Guide

Let's continue looking at the 10 characteristics of a team player as they relate to group leaders.

**Characteristic #8: Team players are transparent...**

**Leading** [learn to facilitate your group more effectively]

Modeling transparency is one of the most difficult roles of a group leader. There are two spectrums here. **On one end, you may have a lot of things you need to be transparent about, but you feel uncomfortable sharing. If this is true, consider the following:**

1. Do you need to be transparent about a sin issue that directly impacts others (spouse, child, parent, friend, etc.)? If so, be transparent with those your sin directly effects first. After you work through that sin issue with them, be transparent with your group. If you wonder how much information you should share, be transparent with your coach first and ask for their spiritual guidance.
2. Be willing to be vulnerable. Your team will not trust one another if you do not trust them. Model transparency for the members of your group.

**The other end of the spectrum is feeling like you don't have a lot to be transparent about. If that is true, consider the following:**

1. Transparency is not always about an unconfessed or secret sin. Transparency is sharing how you feel, how you have been reacting or responding to life, what you have been struggling with, and where you feel weak. Be transparent about your emotions! Don't limit transparency to only negative stuff. Share the positive things, too!
2. As you share about your emotions, be careful to keep the "I statements" rule. Avoid gossip and slander. Share how you feel, but avoid sharing details about the wrong choices of others in your story. General sharing is fine (i.e. – someone cut me off in traffic), but getting specific quickly turns into gossip or slander (i.e. – my husband comes home and yells at me). Your spouse needs to confess their own sins. Instead, focus on your sins (i.e. – I have struggled to respond with the love of Jesus when I don't feel like I am being treated well by my husband.) See the difference?

Ask your coach for help if you need to learn more about how to model appropriate transparency in group.

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

Transparency must become part of our lives, not something we limit to group settings. There are some great questions you can ask to help people be transparent! Instead of asking, "How was your day?" ask questions like, "When did you feel loved today?" "What happened today that made you feel appreciated?" "What has been going on that has caused you to feel unnoticed?" "What is the greatest battle you are facing? How are you handling the stress and anxiety of that conflict?" "How is your mom's chemo going?" "How'd that doctor's visit for your child turn out?" "What is going really well at work/school right now?"

These questions are weird at first, but are very powerful ways to create transparency! Step out of your comfort zone and learn to ask specific questions. CAUTION: Never use questions like these to try to pry your way into a situation so that you can make a judgement! Instead, ask these questions with a desire to show love and to gently guide people to truth.

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

Consider Jesus' example of transparency...

***“Jesus never sinned, so he never had a sin to confess; but, He was transparent about His struggles and His feelings. He wept openly over the death of Lazarus and over the condition of the Jews. He expressed His disappointment over the unbelief in His disciples. He was honest about His grief in Gethsemane. He acknowledged that he was thirsty on the cross. He acknowledged that he felt forsaken by the Father on the cross.”***

***“To be a team player we must develop the character of humility.”***

(Quote above from Pastor Jerry Wells' sermon on [\*Community: Becoming a Team Player Part II\*](#), 1-31-16).



## Week 3 (April 10-16): Lesson Guide

### Open In Prayer

**Welcome/Introductions** – **REVIEW YOUR IMPACT LIST.** Men, who could you invite to Rewired? (early signup deadline is April 14<sup>th</sup>)

**Ask the group to recall the guidelines for discussion that we use to create a safe environment.**

**“My Story is His Story.” Schedule for someone in the group to share their story. If that person is a believer, ask them to include their personal testimony of salvation through Jesus Christ.**

**Ask someone on your team to read the Hook Question** – “Share about a time when God used your suffering to accomplish something good for His glory.”

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

Today’s story is about the Apostle Paul and Silus, a man Paul was discipling. Paul was a missionary to foreign lands and a leader in the early church. Paul’s travels brought his team to the city of Philippi where he met a lady named Lydia. Paul and his team shared the gospel with Lydia and her household, and they all believed and were baptized. Lydia invited Paul and his team to stay in her house, and they accepted.

They all continued to share the gospel in this area. While they did, a woman with a spirit of divination followed them around shouting “These men are servants of the Most High God!” It might have been cute at first, but after a few days she started to annoy Paul. One day, Paul turned around and told the spirit in the girl to be gone! The spirit left, and along with it the girl’s ability to practice seeking knowledge of the future. Well, that girl had some owners, and they were put out by the fact that she could no longer practice that gift and make them money. The owners had Paul and Silus arrested. They were stripped, severely beaten, and thrown into the inner section of the jail; that part of the jail would have been a disgusting place. Their feet and hands were bound, and the jailer was told to keep close watch on these two men. Paul and Silus suffered, but God had a plan to use their suffering to make Jesus known. This is where our story begins...

### Tell the story from Acts 16:25-34

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

**Read Acts 16:25-34** – (Ask the group to read these verses)

### Discuss these questions:

Head Questions:  
Quicker tempo.

- What do you find interesting about this story? Is there anything you particularly like or dislike?
- Why do you think Paul and Silus did not become depressed by what had happened to them?
- What does this story teach us about how God works to bring people to Jesus (or to salvation)?

- Have you ever felt like taking your own life? When was the last time? Why did you feel that way?
- How did the jailer’s faith in Jesus change him?

- Do you know Jesus? If yes, how does your willingness to give up rights, or even suffer, need to change so that Jesus can use your life to bring others to Him?

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

**Ask for a volunteer to tell their 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**

Heart Questions:  
Slow down & wait!