



My Story

Living the story you want to tell

Week 4: Coaching Guide

We are almost through looking at the 10 characteristics of a team player *as they relate to group leaders!*
Characteristic #9: Team players cooperate and pitch in to help...

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

God's people don't offer animal sacrifices to God any longer. That work was finished by Christ's work on the cross (Heb. 10:12-14). However, **the Scriptures admonish us to offer "spiritual sacrifices" to God** (1 Peter 2:5). Being a team player as a group leader means leading your team to pitch in *by your example*. Consider these "spiritual sacrifices" specifically addressed in God's Word:

1. **Serve & be generous:** "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such *sacrifices are pleasing to God*" (Heb.13:16). Join a volunteer team and serve every week (choir, hospitality, connections, etc.). Invite people into your homes. Attend retreats (like Rewired) and serve in church wide events (like the widows work day, VBS, etc.). As you do, God will increase your passion for what His church is doing corporately, and that passion will be contagious to your group as you lead them.
2. **Give faithfully:** Another "spiritual sacrifice" is giving. Listen to the Apostle Paul: "I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a *sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God*" (Phil. 4:18). In this instance, financial gifts are a sacrifice that is "acceptable and pleasing to God." Giving corporately is an act of worship, a "spiritual sacrifice," that pleases God. Lead by example: be generous corporately and to individuals.
3. **Praise:** "Through him then let us continually offer up a *sacrifice of praise to God*, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name" (Heb.13:15). Offer up the sacrifice of praise in your secret place, with your family, in your group, and on Sundays when the Bride of Christ assembles at Western Hills. When your life is connected to praise, it conditions your heart for humility and demonstrates to those you lead the importance of acknowledging God.
4. **Your entire life:** "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to *present your bodies as a living sacrifice*, holy and acceptable to God, *which is your spiritual worship*" (Rom. 12:1). If the things that are listed above didn't seem hard enough, Paul teaches that our ENTIRE LIVES should be an act of worship, a "spiritual sacrifice," lifted to God. Wait... perhaps this last point doesn't make things harder, but actually provides the key to success. Unless we view our lives as living sacrifices to God, we will constantly struggle to please God with the spiritual sacrifices listed above.

Developing [grow as a disciple yourself]

Consider the ways Jesus, who is God, was a team player who pitched in...

"Before Jesus began His public ministry, even though He was the Messiah, the King of Israel, Jesus served His parents. He worked as a carpenter to help support His family. During His public ministry He worked tirelessly to serve the practical needs of others. He turned water into wine at a wedding. He had meals prepared for His disciples. He washed His disciple's feet. He died for the sins of the world.

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



Week 4 (April 17-23): Lesson Guide

Open In Prayer

Welcome/Introductions

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 – “Does anyone have any questions for [the individual who shared their story]?”

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

(WARNING: Some of the content in this week’s Bible story is *graphic*. Parents should be advised.) If we were honest, all of our stories would include battling addictions to the things our bodies desires the most. These battles seem to be the toughest when we experience personal tragedy.

Today’s story is about Lot. To provide some background, Lot was Abraham’s nephew, and Abraham was the father of the nation of Israel. Abraham loved Lot and showed him much kindness. Lot was a wealthy man who lived in Sodom (yes, THAT Sodom) with his wife and at least two daughters. As you can probably imagine because of how we use the word “Sodom” today, Sodom was a very wicked city. God’s judgement was coming on the city, and it was about to be destroyed. Out of His mercy, God sent messengers to tell Lot and his family to leave the city and to not look back. Lot made it out with his wife and two daughters; but, as they fled, Lot’s wife disobeyed God and looked back. She lost her life and became a pillar of salt.

Can you imagine? It is a normal evening at home with the family. All of the sudden, visitors from God tell you that your home and city are going to be destroyed. You quickly grab a few things you can carry and flee. In a moment’s notice, you lose your friends, neighbors, town, and home. Your wife dies in the process of escaping. All your possessions and wealth are gone. In one event, you find yourself homeless, a widower, the father of two girls without their mother, and dirt poor. How would you respond? Let’s hear the story...

Tell the story from Genesis 19:30-38

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

Read Genesis 19:30-38 – (Ask the group to read these verses)

Discuss these questions:

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| <p>Head Questions:
Quicker tempo.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rest of the story: What two nations were born in this story? The Moabites and the Amorites became some of the greatest enemies of the nation of Israel and enslaved them many times. • What catches your attention in this story? Is there anything you particularly like or dislike? • Put yourself in Lot’s shoes. What do you think his emotional condition was? Why? • How about Lot’s daughters? What do you think their emotional condition was? Why? |
| <p>Heart Questions:
Slow down & wait!</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did Lot and his daughters “act out?” What was their solution to their problems? • How are you tempted to “act out?” What are you tempted to turn to, as a solution to your problems? • What do you need to change based on this story? |

Ask for a volunteer to tell the Bible 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