



My Story

Living the story you want to tell

Week 2: Coaching Guide

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

Characteristic #7: Team players actively participate...

Leading [learn to facilitate your group more effectively]

- Love is expressed in actions, and not in words alone. The best example of this in all of history is God's own demonstration of love for us through His death on the cross. It is through actively participating that we demonstrate the love of Christ towards one another.
- It is also through active participation that we demonstrate our love towards God. Jesus said that if we love Him we will keep His commandments (John 14:15). The commands of Jesus are an invitation to forsake our own way of living and to walk in relationship with God as we live the Kingdom Way.
- Active participation in the body of Christ is a vital part of our purpose as the bride of Christ. The relationship between Christ and His bride (the church) is a hard one for Americans to understand. We think individualistically, in many ways to a fault. Yes, Jesus loves you and desires to have a personal relationship with you; however, He also loves His bride – the collective church.
- Here's the kicker: I am not Christ's bride and neither are you. It is all of us *together* who are Christ's bride! Us. Collectively. Together.
- I like Steve Klingbeil's perspective on this concept from here: "I can hear some of your objections—right across space and time. You might be protesting that gathering as a local church of 1,000, 300, 75, or 30 doesn't make us the bride of Christ any more than gathering as our own immediate families... So how does gathering as a tiny fraction of the universal Church make us the bride? Listen to Paul's perspective. He writes with the assumption that the local church, whatever size or shape, acts and functions *as if* it were the complete Church. Paul tells the local Corinthian church that 'all of you together are Christ's body' (1 Cor. 12:27, NLT)... That's how they were to think and function together. This shows that in God's design, the local church acts and functions as the whole Church."
- This may seem un-American, but it is scriptural. It may seem devaluing of individuals, but again, that is because of our cultural misconceptions. God loves you, but He also loves US. When we gather in His name to worship, serve, love, and share His gospel with the world, He is pleased.
- Being a team player in the church means understanding this reality about our God and adjusting our lives to worship Him accordingly. Yes, worship Him individually, but also by participating as the bride.

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

- Hopefully the truths shared above stirred your heart for the importance of your group meeting! Every time you assemble with your group, you are a representation of the bride of Christ! Your assembly is pleasing to the Lord if you seek to honor Him in the way you conduct worship according to His Word.
- As the intentional leader, you must set the bar for the importance of engaging in intimate fellowship with Christ as His bride! Encourage your group to make this engagement in worship and fellowship with God a priority in their lives. Challenge your group to be active team players in group, in the weekly worship service, in service projects, and in any other opportunities to actively participate as the bride of Christ.

Developing [grow as a disciple yourself]

Consider Jesus' example of actively participating...

"Jesus was not a recluse. He did not choose his own comfort over the needs of the team. He chose to participate when He did not feel like participating. To be a team player we must develop the character of initiative."

(Quote above from Pastor Jerry Wells' sermon on [Community: Becoming a Team Player Part II](#), 1-31-16).
(Concepts about the bride of Christ is found in the Bible and expounded upon in Steve Klingbeil's book *For Whose Pleasure*.)



Week 2 (April 3-9): Lesson Guide

Open In Prayer

Welcome/Introductions – **REVIEW YOUR IMPACT LIST.** *Who could you invite to hear Tom Hill on April 10th?*
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 – “When have you sought God but struggled to find Him?”

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

Today’s story takes place shortly after Jesus ascended into heaven and the Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost. It is about how God saved an Ethiopian eunuch who was a high official in the court of the queen of Ethiopia. It is important to note that Ethiopia is in Africa, but this man was headed home from Jerusalem where he had just traveled to worship God; he was far, far from home. Little is known about this man, but it is clear that he was making tremendous sacrifice as he sought to worship God. The Ethiopian’s conversion to Christ illustrates the Christian faith transcending national boundaries.

Today’s story also includes a man named Philip. Philip was one of the first seven deacons chosen to serve in the first church that met in Jerusalem. When the church began to experience persecution, many left Jerusalem and went to other cities. Philip had gone to Samaria, a place despised by Jews, and was used by God to start a revival in that city. Many were saved and baptized. It is at the end of Philip’s time in Samaria that our story begins...

Tell the story from Acts 8:26-39

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

Read Acts 8:26-39 – (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?
- Whose efforts led to the Ethiopian’s decision to receive Jesus?
- Who shared Jesus with you when you first believed? What happened?
- Through the angel, Philip, His Word, etc., God did His part in this story (He always does His part). Many others did their part in the story (Philip, the Ethiopian, Isaiah the prophet who wrote the Scripture, et–c.). Whom do you relate to in this story? What is your part?
- What is the next step you need to take to do your part? Will you do it?
- Is there anyone here who would like to talk with [the group leader] about being baptized?

Heart Questions:
Slow down & wait!

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