



Week 5: Coaching Guide

As our summer season approaches, we will take advantage of these last few weeks to look closely at ***what it means to be an intentional leader***. Our group leaders are intentional leaders, and their mission is to facilitate spiritual growth in their groups. What does that look like? How is this accomplished?

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

“Some people are intimidated by the title *leader*; others are eager to take charge. How does it strike you? We use the label *intentional leader* interchangeably with *disciple-maker*. We don’t see Jesus leading by accident, nor do we believe He was haphazard in His approach. As a disciple-maker, He intentionally led His followers.”

Intentional leaders have a plan for discipleship for those that they are leading. As a group leader, your plan for intentional leadership is the 7 Essentials: abide in Christ, reach the lost, connect the unconnected, chase the strays, intentionally disciple others towards spiritual maturity, identify, equip, and release leaders, and work as a team. To work towards these essentials, we do several things together regularly: meet weekly with our group, story and facilitate conversations around God’s Word, meet weekly for corporate worship, give, connect people to 101, connect group members to the prospective leadership list, encourage our group to invite new people to group, partake of communion regularly, etc. These habits provide practical ways for us to practice intentional leadership.

Intentional leadership doesn’t stop with our regular practices. These ongoing commitments provide a baseline that we can build on as we facilitate spiritual growth. “Jesus adjusted His plan in order to meet people where they were... Being intentional does not mean using a rigid, preprogrammed approach, nor does it mean being accidental. Intentional leaders drive the discipleship process. They do not leave it to chance or random luck.”

Developing [grow as a disciple yourself]

Do you consider disciple-making something you do, or who you are? Disciple-maker and intentional leader can be used interchangeably. As the intentional leader of your group, you are the intentional disciple-maker. This does not mean that you have to disciple everyone one-to-one in your group! However, this does mean that you are determined to see your group with spiritual eyes and to shepherd your group towards spiritual growth.

Make a note to grab your Real Life Discipleship Training Manual this week during one of your devotion times. Re-read pages 77-79 on intentional leadership. Consider the intentionality of Christ and what He did to meet people where they were and to facilitate spiritual growth in their lives.

Pray and ask the Lord to help you develop your ability to see spiritual things in your group and to do your part to intentionally lead others towards spiritual maturity. Next, take a moment to pray for the people in your group. Prayer is a powerful first step towards intentional spiritual leadership.



Week 5 (May 22-28): Lesson Guide

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions

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

Quickly review your plan for the summer season to make sure everyone is informed and has your group's events on their calendar.

Ask this Hook Question: – “Have you ever started a project or journey with a particular goal in mind and found yourself far from your original goal by the time you finished? Explain.”

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

In the Old Testament, God used prophets to speak His Word to others. Prophets were representatives of God to those to whom God had a message to deliver.

Jonah was an Israelite and a prophet of God. One of God's purposes for the nation of Israel was to be a light to the other nations. From the time of Abraham, it was God's intention to bless the entire world through Israel. In today's story, God calls Jonah to play his part in fulfilling God's mission for Israel. In the same way, God has called each of us to play our part to fulfill His mission as a team player in His Church. Jonah struggled to accept God's mission. Many in the church struggle to accept that their primary purpose is to accomplish God's mission for their life, not their own. Many do not want to align themselves to God's plan for their lives in spite of what they have received from God through the gospel. Much can be learned from the life of Jonah. Listen to this week's story...

Tell the story from Jonah 1:1-3:10 (Storytelling Tip: Simply summarize all of chapter 2 by saying, “Jonah prayed from inside the fish, and God saved him by commanding the fish to spit him out on the land.”)

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

Read Jonah 1:1-3:10 – (Ask the group to read these verses)

Discuss these questions:

Head
Questions:
Quicker
tempo.

- What do you find interesting in this story? Is there anything you particularly like or dislike?
- What does this story teach us about people?
- What does this story teach us about God?

- How do you relate to this story or to Jonah?
- What do you need to change in your own heart based on this story?
- How does the culture of our group need to change based on this story?

Heart Questions:
Slow down & wait!

Ask for a volunteer to tell the Bible 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