



Week 1 (March 4-10): Lesson Guide

Introduce guests/share life. *How has this week been going? Good? Bad? Ugly? Things to celebrate?*

Open in prayer. *Include any prayer needs that came up while you were sharing life together.*

Recall the guidelines together. *Ask: "What is the purpose of the guidelines?" Answer: To be relational!*

Hook Question: Can you think of someone you know who has endured a lot of suffering and God has used their suffering to draw others to Himself? Please share.

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

Jesus has suffered more than any person who has ever lived. He left the glories of heaven, took on a human body, lived a life of dedicated ministry to others, and died on a cross; not only that, but He also became cursed by God for every sin that we have or will ever commit. No one has ever suffered like Jesus has suffered. Through His sufferings, God accomplished His purpose to save us from sin's curse.

Jesus has suffered the most. However, among the followers of Jesus, arguably, no one has suffered more than the Apostle Paul. Paul worked tirelessly, was imprisoned frequently, was flogged severely, and exposed to death time and time again. He received the maximum legal number of lashes five times. Lashes are when a person was whipped in such a way that flesh was pulled from the bone, often exposing bone, muscle, and even organs. He was beaten with rods three times. He was stoned to the point of death once. He was shipwrecked three times. He spent a night and day in the open sea. He constantly moved, forfeiting the luxury of settling down and becoming established. He experienced danger from rivers, danger from bandits, danger from his fellow Jews, danger from Gentiles, danger in the country, danger at sea, and danger from false believers. He worked hard and forfeited sleep, went without food and water at times, and had been cold and without proper clothing. Not only that, but he suffered an intense concern every day for the churches he helped establish. Paul suffered. He knew He was weak. Paul also knew that God was perfecting His strength through Paul's weaknesses. All this Paul suffered, because he believed that God would use his suffering to accomplish Jesus's purpose/mission.

God did. There has never been a more impactful missionary and leader in church history than Paul. It is likely that most, if not all, in this meeting today would not know Jesus apart from the ministry and suffering of Paul. Today's story takes place closer to the end of Paul's life. The Spirit was leading Paul to Jerusalem. The climate in Jerusalem was dangerous for Christians, especially Paul. He was making his way through places where he had preached the gospel, made disciples, and helped establish churches. He came to the city of Caesarea, a town just west of Jerusalem off the Mediterranean Sea. This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from Acts 21:8-15: Change up the storyteller often!

Rebuild the story: Group members retell the story based on what they remember.

Read the story from Acts 21:8-15: Ask the group to read together.

Discuss these questions:

- Head Questions: Quicker tempo.
- Heart Questions: Slow down & wait!
- Action
- What stands out to you in this story? What do you like or dislike?
 - What does this story teach us about people?
 - What does this story teach us about God?
 - Who do you relate to in this story? Why?
 - What do you need to do this week, regardless of what it costs you, to reach someone else for Jesus?
 - Ask someone to retell this week's story one last time.

**Add any new names & pray for the names on your IMPACT List.
Recruit a storyteller for next week.**



Week 2: Coaching Guide

Sharing with the Spiritually Dead

Who do you know that, if they died right now, would spend forever separated from God in hell? Those are the people in your life who are spiritually dead. Our part is to fast and pray for these people, to share our lives and the gospel with these people, and to invite them to attend services in April where the gospel and baptism will be presented weekly. This week, we will continue to explore helpful concepts that will guide us as we do our part.

Preparing Your Testimony

While people may disagree about your beliefs, they cannot disagree with what God has done in your life. Your testimony is the most effective way you can share the gospel message with an unbeliever. If you have never developed your personal testimony, here is an outline that will help you do so now:

Write a significant event that falls under each part of this outline:

1. My Life Before Jesus

2. How I Came to Know Jesus

3. My Life with Jesus Now/Since

Practice your testimony with a friend and be ready to share your testimony with your group in April during Mission Month.

Your testimony is your story of what Jesus has done for you personally. Your testimony would not be possible had Jesus not suffered and died for you. Remember, you only know God because of what He has done! Think about all that God has done for you and rejoice in Jesus!