



Week 3 (March 18-24): 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: Would you consider yourself to be someone who thinks about the second coming of Jesus and its implications regularly? Explain your answer.

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

Today's story is a string of illustrations Jesus spoke about His second coming.

For those who may not know, the second coming of Jesus is a biblical event that is yet to happen but will most certainly take place. In His first coming, Jesus came as the suffering Servant who died on the cross for the sins of the world. In His second coming, Jesus will come as the conquering King. In His first coming, Jesus arrived in the humblest of ways. In His second coming, Jesus will arrive with the armies of heaven at His side. The Bible has a lot to say about the second coming of Christ and our preparedness.

Here's some background. Jesus is the Master. His followers, the church, are His servants. Jesus has gone away for a season, and He has left His servants with authority to do His work while He is gone. His work is for us to take the gospel to others and make disciples of Him. He is not slow in coming back, as some might think. Jesus is showing mercy to the world allowing more to experience His salvation. However, He will come back. Suddenly. At the right time. At an hour when He is not expected. All those He has left behind will be held accountable when He returns. With this thought about His return, our story begins...

Tell the story from Matthew 24:36-51: Change up the storyteller often!

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

Read the story from Matthew 24:36-51: Ask the group to read together.

Discuss these questions:

Head
Questions:
Quicker
tempo.

- List the various ways Jesus expresses that His return will be sudden or unexpected.
 - Why do you think it was important to Jesus that His disciples knew this about His second coming?
- How does Jesus want His servants to act while He is away?
- What will happen to the person who looks like a servant but is really a wicked person?

Heart Questions:
Slow down & wait!

- Jesus said to keep watch. Do you feel like you have been keeping watch well? Why or why not?
- How do you relate to this story? How do you need to change?
- Ask someone to retell this week's story one last time.

Action

- Distribute the IMPACT List of names your group is praying for. Divide the list into categories based on the people who submitted the names for the list. Ask if there are any new names to add.
- As a group, pray for the names on your IMPACT List. Ask God to show mercy and save them before He suddenly returns, and it is too late. Ask God to put urgency in your heart to tell others about Him.

Recruit a storyteller for next week.



Week 3: Coaching Guide

Sharing with the Spiritually Dead

Last week we considered the power of our testimony when sharing the gospel with others. This week we will consider the power of integrity in our hearts as we share not only the gospel, but our very lives...

Sharing Your Life

Stop. Right here. Slow your tempo and mind. Read these words that Paul wrote to a church that he had helped establish:

1 Thessalonians 2:8-12

...so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

Notice how Paul related to those he was sharing Jesus with. Paul did not just share the gospel with those he encountered. He shared his life with them. He worked. He endured hardship. He related to them in a righteous and blameless way. He dealt with them as a good father deals with his own children: with encouragement, comfort, and urging them to live the Kingdom Way.

Reaching the lost must be something you do out of the integrity of your heart. It cannot be something that you force, fake, or treat like just another action step. It must be real. Ask God to fill your heart with love and compassion for those He has placed in your circles of influence. For the names on your IMPACT List, on the orange dots, ask God to use you to share with them not only the gospel, but your very life.