



Week 4: February 3-9

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

Share the Vision: *What is the vision of this group? How do we work together to accomplish our goal?*

Ask someone to tell last week's story (The Talents).

Hook Question: Have you ever missed out on something because you were too late or it expired? Explain.

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

What we have is a gift from God. We are not the owners. God owns everything. We are simply stewards, managers, of what He has entrusted to us. This is why greed is so dangerous. Greed claims ownership rights over something that isn't ours to claim. Greed challenges God by saying it belongs to me instead of You. We can be greedy with our money, our time, our possessions, our relationships, and more.

A crowd of many thousands gathered to hear Jesus. When Jesus saw the crowd, He began to teach His disciples first. He told them to watch out for the hypocrisies of the religious leaders of His day. He taught them about their value and worth because they were precious in the sight of God. He taught them to place their allegiance with Him and His Kingdom rather than with the world. He told them to trust God with their lives. It is interesting that Jesus focused on His disciples with thousands surrounding them.

The crowd was listening while Jesus taught His disciples. Immediately after, someone in the crowd approached Jesus and demanded that Jesus tell his brother to divide the inheritance with him. Apparently, this man wasn't listening well to the teachings of Jesus just before. This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from Luke 12:13-21: *Use different storytellers. Teach your group to share God's Word.*

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

Read the story from Luke 12:13-21: *Ask the group to read these verses.*

Discussion Questions: learn to talk about God's Word with others...

Head
Questions:
Quicker
tempo.

- What do you like or dislike about this story?
- What does this story teach us about people?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- This story was about money, but how do you think it applies to the way you use your time?

Heart & Hand
Questions:
Slow down &
wait!

- What do you think God is trying to show you right now? How do you need to change?
- Who could retell the story for us right here one last time?

Thank your storyteller for sharing the Word. Ask for a volunteer storyteller for next week.
Close in prayer.



Week 4: Learning to be a Good Steward of Your Small Group

What Will You Reproduce?

We have a strong strategy at Western Hills Church. A strategy for intentional disciple-making. A strategy to shepherd people through small groups. A strategy for coaching small group members to become a team equipped to reach out and disciple others. It is a tested strategy. It is a strategy that works. It is the strategy that Jesus used.

Here's the thing. Strategy is important... but culture eats strategy for breakfast.

Discipleship isn't simply a strategy. Discipleship happens in relationships. That's why we call it "relational discipleship." Jesus had a strategy, and it was powerful. His strategy worked because He executed that strategy by developing discipleship relationships that became the most important relationships in His life.

You can follow Jesus's example.

1. The most important relationship in your life must be Jesus. Abide in Him. He wants to disciple you through His Word, His Church, and His Spirit.
2. The most important relationships with people in your life should start with your discipleship relationships. If you are married, this starts with your spouse. If you have children, disciple them. REMEMBER: You cannot disciple your spouse and your children without modeling discipleship in the church family for them. HAVE YOU EMBRACED THIS TRUTH YET? It is not enough to stay home and try to teach your family to love God within your four walls. You must show them how a disciple of Jesus loves God by loving Jesus's Church and by loving the lost and the disconnected (Luke 14:26).

Culture eats strategy for breakfast. Most of you understand the strategy (although we can always benefit from learning more about the strategy and developing our skills in it). Understanding the strategy and even being good at it is nothing if you do not have meaningful, real-life relationships. Strategy is nothing if discipleship culture is not part of who you are. This is the life adjustment Jesus calls us to. This is picking up our cross and following Him (Luke 14:25-34). We lay down our lives to be His disciples who make disciples the way Jesus modeled: relationally.