

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE OVERCOMER

Week 4: September 9-15

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: *At group, not only will we engage one another in relational discipleship every week, but we will also practice a method for studying the Bible that you can reproduce and use to disciple others!*

Ask someone to retell last week's story (Mark 3:20-21; 31-15).

Hook Question: Jesus said it was costly to follow Him and make disciples. What are some of the costs of discipling others?

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

Jesus ministered to the multitudes freely. It seems He was willing to meet people right where they were. However, when it came to being a disciple of Jesus, Jesus always raised the expectations. In today's story, three men want to follow Jesus and become one of His disciples, but all three were wrestling with personal challenges. There are a couple of things you should know about Jesus's culture before you hear the story...

First, in the story, Jesus tells the man who wants to bury his father to "let the dead bury their own dead." This sounds harsh! Was Jesus denying this man the opportunity to attend his father's funeral? In Jesus's culture, someone would often say they wanted to bury their father before they were dead... or even before they were ill! The man was basically saying that he wanted to stay with his father until he died, even if that was many years away. Jesus's reply indicates the urgency of His call to follow Him, and His focus on spiritual concerns rather than physical or temporary issues.

The second part of the story to address is the part where Jesus says, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the Kingdom of God." Jesus lived in an agricultural society where people knew what these phrases meant. Putting your hand to the plow and looking back meant you started a new business venture, but washed out. Jesus was warning this would-be disciple that following Him meant no turning back. With these two statements addressed, it is time for our story to begin...

Tell the story from Luke 9:57-62: *Use different storytellers. Train disciple-makers to share truth.*

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

Read Luke 9:57-62: *Ask the group to read these verses.*

Discussion Questions:

Head
Questions:
Quicker
tempo.

- What can you learn about Jesus in this story?
- How was Jesus preparing His disciples to be disciple-makers in this story?
- How do you relate to these three men? What is your greatest challenge in giving your all to make disciples of Jesus?
- What is Jesus trying to teach you tonight?
 - How do you need to apply what He is teaching you to your life?
- Who could retell the story for us right here one last time?

Heart Questions:
Slow down & wait!

Ask for a volunteer to tell the Bible story next week.

Close in prayer.

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Clearing Up the Expectations

Discipleship is a team sport. In every group, an intentional leader is working to lead the group to create a relational environment and to learn the reproducible process so that they can become equipped to disciple others. You lead your group to work together to become better disciple-makers.

Does your group know this is the whole point of group?

One of the hardest things to remember in team discipleship is that not everyone in your group is at the same place as you when it comes to your knowledge and understanding of discipleship. Your group must be constantly reminded about what it means to be a disciple who makes disciples. The vision you cast and share at the beginning of each group meeting is vital. For this series, we have put the vision for your group on every curriculum lesson and **highlighted it in bright red letters**. The purpose behind this is to help you remember the importance of pointing your group to discipleship.

How have you been doing when it comes to casting the vision? Would each person in your group be able to explain how what you are doing in group each week is better equipping them to make disciples of Jesus themselves? What do you need to change to help your group catch that vision? Is there someone in your group that you need to spend extra time with to help them catch the vision and learn how to reproduce discipleship with others?

Pray. Listen. Take action. Repeat. This is the ongoing posture of a discipleship group leader.

Please remember!

401 is coming up very soon! We need you to register. Plus, we want you to invite your group assistant to join you for 401. You can also invite any other disciple-makers or aspiring disciple-makers in your group to join us. This is a great chance to help your people become more acquainted with the discipleship strategy in our church and small groups.

You can register online through the Right Now Announcement page:

www.westernhillchurch.com/rightnow