



### Week 3: November 17-23

10min

Welcome / Introduce Guests  
Celebrate! / Open in Prayer / Recall the Guidelines

2min

*Share the Vision: Each one of us has a circle of influence. Who is in your circle of influence that you could*

5min

*invite to connect with Jesus and His Church this holiday season? Who could you invite to go to the Thanksgiving Meal & Service with us this Sunday? Who could you invite to share Christmas with your family? Who could you invite to connect with our small group? Think about who you could connect.*

**Hook Question:** Can you tell us about a time when you did something wrong but later you got caught?

2min

**Retell Last Week's Story:** Joshua 10:6-15 (God stops the sun and moon)

5min

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

Today, we will continue our study and discussion around the wonders of God. Last week's story reminded us that God is all-powerful. This week's story reminds us that God is all-knowing.

Last week's story provides some background for this week's story. Under God's command, Joshua was leading the nation of Israel in conquest in the land of Canaan. This was the land of promise that God swore He would give to the nation of Israel. Joshua and his troops were invading this land, and God was giving them the victory.

As God gave the nation of Israel victory, He had certain expectations of them. When it came to dividing the spoils of victory, the men were allowed to keep some things, but God set other goods apart to be kept in the treasury of the Lord. These items included silver, gold, and the vessels of bronze and iron. These were holy to the Lord and were known as "devoted things" (ESV translation).

In today's story, God had just given Israel victory in the city of Jericho. The men had been well-informed of God's expectations concerning the devoted things. There was a man named Achan (a-kan) who decided to test God. Achan sinned by deliberately disobeying God and trying to hide his sin from God and from everyone else. This is where our story begins...

12min

**Tell the story from Joshua 7:1-26:** *Remember to change up the storyteller often.*

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

**Read the story from Joshua 7:1-26:** *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?

Heart & Hand Questions: Slow down & wait!

- Are there any sins in your life that you have been hiding that you need to be honest about now?
- What do you think God is trying to show you through this story and our discussion?
- 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 3: Extending Invitations

*Jesus said, "Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Matthew 4:19)*

For Jesus, discipleship began with an invitation. Jesus understood that all relationships start with an invitation. Growing closer to other people does not happen unless someone takes the initiative to connect. Once the initiative is taken, a relationship has the potential to grow if both parties are willing to invest.

In order for Jesus to extend the invitation, He had to be paying attention to who God had placed around Him. Jesus took notice of these fishermen, thought of a way to connect with them, and then invited them to follow Him in a way that would be meaningful to them (i.e. – He told them to follow Him so they would become fishers of men). Extending meaningful invitations requires awareness and intentionality.

During the Holiday Season, we need to remember this lesson from Jesus's ministry. Relationships start with an invitation. Meaningful invitations require us to be aware and intentional with those who are around us. Look around. Who do you see? Who needs an invitation to lunch or coffee? Who is not connected with a church family? Who could you invite to join you and your group at the Thanksgiving Meal & Service (Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>) or to Christmas with the WHC Choir (Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>)? Who could you invite to small group? There are people all around you that need an invitation. Some will accept, and some will decline. Your job is not to decide how they will respond. Your part is to be like Jesus and invite others to connect.

Your small group needs to be encouraged to think the same way. Each one of us has a circle of influence. Who could they invite to connect with this Holiday Season? Who could they invite to Thanksgiving or Christmas church events? Who could they invite to share Thanksgiving or Christmas with them in their home? Who could they invite to small group or to a group activity?

When Jesus invited these men, He cast the vision in His invitation. He told them they would become fishers of men. He let them know that His goal was to help them learn to follow Him and to help others become His followers. When you invite people this Holiday Season, follow Jesus's example and give them a vision for following Jesus and leading others to follow Jesus, too.