



Week 4: November 24-30

10min

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

2min

Share the Vision: Discipleship is a team sport. Every one of us is needed in the body of Christ. We cannot fulfill Jesus's mission to "go make disciples" alone. I need you in my life. You need me. We are all broken by sin. We need one another to learn to grow in faith and grow in love. Discipleship is a team sport.

5min

Hook Question: This week is Thanksgiving week. As you look back on 2019, can you think of one specific way you are especially grateful to God for how He has been there for you this year?

2min

Retell Last Week's Story: Joshua 7:1-26 (hidden sins)

5min

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

On the week of Thanksgiving, we will set our focus on God by remembering that He is always present. Aren't you grateful?! He never leaves us or forsakes us. He is always with us – even in our darkest times.

Today's story happens at the end of Jesus's time on earth. His disciples had been through terrible trauma as they witnessed the reality of Jesus's death. They were devastated. Then, miraculously, Jesus had risen from the dead! They saw Him a few times. Their hope was renewed. Yet now, Jesus was gathering with them for the last time. He was about to leave them. They gathered in Galilee – the area where most of their ministry together had taken place. As they gathered, Jesus shared some parting words. This is where our story begins...

12min

Tell the story from Matthew 28:16-20: Remember to change up the storyteller often.

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

Read the story from Matthew 28:16-20: Ask the group to read these verses.

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

Head Questions: Quicker tempo.

- Put yourself in the disciples' shoes. How do you think they felt?
- What commandment did Jesus give in this story?
- What promise did Jesus make in this story?
- 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!

- 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 4: Covering Group on Unusual Weeks

"Where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I." - Jesus

Next week is Thanksgiving. The holiday will likely impact your group meeting in some way. How should we handle group meetings when things are not normal (i.e. - vacations, holidays, etc.)?

Please use the following principles to guide your decision making:

- 1. Think of the least and the lowest.** Your priority next week should not be thinking first about the group meeting. Your priority should be making sure everyone has a family to share Thanksgiving with. Think about real-life relationships. If someone doesn't have somewhere to go, invite them in and make them feel welcomed and loved. There is no other alternative if we are going to be like Jesus.
- 2. We almost never cancel meetings.** If 2-3 are willing to meet, why would we cancel? Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there" (Matthew 18:20). If we are aiming at relational discipleship, there is no reason to cancel just because we cannot be there or because others will miss. Encourage those who want to meet together for discipleship to meet together! They may need to meet somewhere out of the ordinary - that's fine! There may only be two of them - that's great! Appoint someone to be the point person to get the logistics together and let them do discipleship. If no one can meet, then the meeting wasn't canceled - it just means no one showed up but everyone had an opportunity. The other option is to move your meeting to another time to accommodate for the holiday schedule. Just go back to point #1 if you take this route.
- 3. Communicate your plan well in advance.** Don't get to the day of group and say, "Whoops! Sorry! I won't be there because of a family thing!" That is very unloving! Put your group ahead of yourself by thinking of them in advance and letting them know about the plan. As you think ahead, revisit points #1 and #2.

Practicing these principles will make you better at relationships and a stronger discipleship leader. Let's put this to practice this Thanksgiving. Make a plan now and put it in motion. Start communicating about next week right away!