

Powerful prayers

Week 2: March 8-14

10min

Welcome / Introduce Guests

Celebrate Relational Connections from the Last Week / Open in Prayer / Recall the Guidelines

2min

Share the Vision: Small group is a great opportunity to make disciples relationally, but relationships can develop only so much in small group. Spending time together outside of group and Sunday Mornings is very important to developing a relational environment. Going to a park, event, or having a meal outside of group together enhances discipleship for everyone.

2min

Hook Question: When was a time you experienced the presence of God amid a terrible trouble?

5min

Retell Last Week's Story: Zechariah 2:1-13 (Zechariah's dream)

2min

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

Psalm 46 describes terrible troubles. The waters foam and roar. The mountains fall into the sea. The nations rage. The Psalm is filled with chaos! But the Psalm is not about terrible troubles. The Psalm is about the power of God's presence during terrible troubles. That is what today's story is all about.

Today's story takes place during the life of Moses. God's people, the Israelites, were in slavery to the Egyptians. God called Moses to obey Him and to lead His people out of slavery in Egypt. This was a difficult task! The Pharaoh of Egypt was powerful. He would not let his slaves go easily. So, God did powerful and miraculous signs through Moses so that Pharaoh would let His people go. These powerful signs are known as "The 10 Plagues in Egypt." These signs included miracles such as entire rivers turning to blood and complete darkness in the land for three days. The final plague was the nail in the coffin (pardon the pun). God sent a spirit of death through all of Egypt and every firstborn in the land of Egypt died... including the son of Pharaoh. That was enough. Pharaoh's heart was softened, and he allowed God's people to go. God appeared to the Israelites as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night and led them out of Egypt. God had promised He would lead them out and His promise was being fulfilled!

Pharaoh's decision to let God's people go didn't last long. God had another test prepared to show Israel and Egypt His great power. God used the pillars to lead His people to a place in the wilderness where they were landlocked by the Red Sea. Then, God allowed word to reach Pharaoh's ears that the Israelites were encamped by the sea. Pharaoh saw this as an opportunity to get even with the Israelites and with Moses! He rallied his army and went out to meet the Israelites by the sea.

Remember the Psalm? Remember the roaring waters and the nations raging? Israel found themselves in the exact same position. On one side were the roaring waters of the Red Sea. On the other side was the raging army of the Egyptians. Israel was in terrible trouble! They could not save themselves from the trouble. What was God doing? Did God bring them out just so they could die? How would God use this to show His power in the midst of their terrible troubles? This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from Exodus 14:10-31: Remember to change up the storyteller often.

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

Read the story from Exodus 14:10-31: Ask the group to read these verses.

12min

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

Head
Questions:
Quicker
tempo.

- What do you like or dislike about this story?
- When everything seems to be falling apart, what is your natural reaction?
- What does this story teach us about people?
- What does this story teach us about God?

Heart & Hand
Questions:
Slow down &
wait!

- What is your big takeaway from this story and discussion? 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.*

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Week 2: Jesus the Great Administrator

Let's continue to look at Biblical administration as we resume this series. Last week we learned how we should be confident in our calling as administrators just as Jesus was. This week we want to learn how Jesus cast vision to others early and often. Check out the verses below.

Matthew 4:17 – “From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”

Matthew 4:19 – “And he said to them, ‘Follow me and I will make you fishers of men’.”

Matthew 28:19-20 - “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

As you can see, Jesus was a master at casting vision. When he shared his vision, it was simple and clear. It never changed or wavered. And it was constant. He had one goal; make disciples so that all man would know him.

Our goal is the same, but without constantly communicating this to each small group, our groups will drift from this purpose. Proverbs 29:18 says that where there is no vision, the people perish. As administrators, God has charged us to constantly and clearly cast vision to those under our leadership. It is vital to the life of your small group. It is our job to keep the group pointed in the right direction so that God's kingdom can be advanced through each group member.