



Week 10: October 20-26

Welcome / Introduce Guests

10min

Open in Prayer
Recall the Guidelines

2min

Share the Vision: According to God's Word, anyone who has believed on Jesus for forgiveness of sins has received the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit dwells in me and that same Holy Spirit dwells in you. When we come together for group, we should expect to hear the Holy Spirit from one another. He speaks to us through His Word and through His people. Let's listen for the Holy Spirit in each other today.

5min

Hook Question: Can you share about a time when someone's act of love encouraged your faith?

2min

Retell Last Week's Story: 2 Kings 6:8-23 (Elisha and the Angel Army)

4min

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

God has given every believer spiritual gifts to be used for His glory. Some of these gifts include prophecy, teaching, exhorting, giving, serving, healing, words of wisdom, leading, and showing mercy. As believers, God wants us to earnestly desire gifts of the Holy Spirit and to exercise those gifts in community with others.

Sometimes the spiritual gifts can be confusing. Pastor Jerry's message at Western Hills this past Sunday helped bring some clarity to the subject. One of the most important principles we need to remember about spiritual gifts is that using our spiritual gifts is not the mission. We do not give for the sake of giving. We do not serve for the sake of serving. We do not teach for the sake of teaching. Our spiritual gifts are not the end. They are a means to the end. The end goal is the mission Jesus has given us: to go make disciples. We must learn to ask, "How can I use my spiritual gifts to fulfill the mission to make disciples relationally?"

Today's story takes place in the book of Acts shortly after the church was born. Peter was one of the original 12 Apostles God called to lead His church in the beginning. God's Holy Spirit was indwelling new believers and stirring them up to good works for the sake of the mission of Jesus. New disciples were being made regularly. As you hear this story, pay attention to how spiritual gifts and acts of service and love opened the door for relational discipleship and for the advancement of the gospel. This is where our story begins...

12min

Tell the story from Acts 9:32-43: 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 Acts 9:32-43: 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?
- How do you see the Holy Spirit in this story? Remember, the Spirit gives us gifts for ministry.
- What does this story teach us about people?
- What does this story teach us about God? (Remember, the Holy Spirit is God.)

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 10: The Power of Celebration

People aspire to the things we celebrate.

Celebration changes what people value. What I value greatly impacts the way I live. What a company values greatly impacts the way it operates. What a nation values greatly impacts its culture. Celebration is powerful because it changes what we value.

In America, one of the groups or movements that is mastering the art of celebration is the LGBTQ+ community. They do not have "Equal Rights Marches," they have "Pride Parades." They do not emphasize condemning other people, they focus on championing their lifestyle by exalting and glorifying their values through celebration. They host multi-day parties intended to celebrate their cause. Through celebration, they have changed a culture from being morally opposed to homosexuality to embracing all kinds of sexual perversions and celebrating those who have the courage to live out those perversions. How have they done this? Through celebration.

Again, people aspire to the things we celebrate.

What are you celebrating in your small group? Are you celebrating at all? If you are not celebrating walking in a personal relationship with Jesus and joining Him in His mission to make disciples relationally then you are not giving your group the right aspiration. They will aspire to what you celebrate.

So, how can you practically celebrate with your group in ways that will inspire them to be a discipleship team that works together to grow in faith and love?

1. **Celebrate reading the Bible together.** Text your group insights from your own reading. Invite your group to read with you and celebrate those who are reading together.
2. **Celebrate relational discipleship outside the group.** Start every small group meeting by asking the group to share about any relational discipleship that happened outside the group over the past week. Let them share stories about text messages sent, phone calls made, meals shared, work or fun they shared together, etc. This will also challenge you to be active in relational discipleship outside your group meetings!
3. **Celebrate great storytellers.** When someone does a great job telling the story, lead your group to applaud and celebrate excellence in sharing the Word. Remind the group that we can all become excellent in sharing the Word with others by learning to tell Bible stories and ask good questions.
4. **Celebrate transparency.** Thank those who share transparency in a sincere way. Tell them you are encouraged by their transparency.
5. **Celebrate efforts to connect new people.** Anytime someone invites someone to small group or to some other church activity, make a strong point to celebrate their effort and to pray together for the person that your group is working to connect.