



### Week 3: September 1-7

Welcome / Introduce Guests

10min

Open in Prayer  
Recall the Guidelines

2min

**Share the Vision: The goal of our group is to make disciples of Jesus. A disciple of Jesus is one who is following Jesus, being changed by Jesus, and is on mission for Jesus. God's goal for each of us is to be His disciples and to make disciples of Jesus together. Our Hook Question will focus on being changed by God.**

5min

**Hook Question:** If you have the Holy Spirit living in you, what is one way you know He has changed you?

2min

**Retell Last Week's Story: John 7:37-47 (Jesus promises living water)**

4min

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

Today's story takes place in the Old Testament during the period of the kings. The nation of Israel was divided into two kingdoms: the northern called Israel and the southern called Judah. This story takes place in the northern kingdom.

During this time period, God would raise up prophets in Israel to speak His Word and His truth. This was very necessary, because the kings in the northern kingdom were wicked kings who forsook God and His Word. One of these prophets was the prophet Elisha.

Elisha was discipled by another prophet named Elijah. When Elijah was about to be taken up into heaven, he asked Elisha if there was anything he could do for him. Elisha asked for a double portion of the spirit of Elijah. This was a big ask because Elijah was one of the greatest prophets to ever live! God granted the request of Elisha.

With this background of these prophets, there is one more thing that will help you understand this story. The war leader in this story called Naaman was not an Israelite. He was from Syria, one of Israel's rivals. However, Naaman had true faith. He was a man who believed that there was only one God on the earth, and that was the God of Israel. Naaman is honored in this story for his faith in God.

Look for the Holy Spirit in this story. We already know He is on Elisha. This is where the story begins...

10min

**Tell the story from 2 Kings 5:1-14: 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 2 Kings 5:1-14: Ask the group to read these verses.**

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

Head  
Questions:  
Quicker  
tempo.

- What stands out to you in this story? Why?
- In what ways can you see the Holy Spirit in this story?
- What does this story teach us about people?
- What does this story teach us about God? (Remember, the Holy Spirit is God.)
- 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?

Heart & Hand  
Questions:  
Slow down &  
wait!

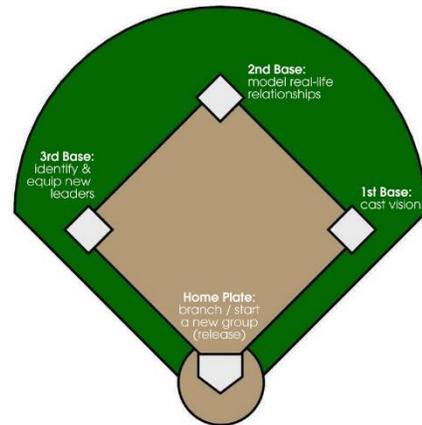
**Thank your storyteller for sharing the Word. Ask for a volunteer storyteller for next week.  
Close in prayer.**



## Week 3: Base #2 – Model Real-Life Relationships

We are working our way around the bases as we learn to raise up new leaders. As leaders, our primary goal is not to start new groups - it is to raise up disciples who can make disciples of Jesus. For that to happen, we must constantly round the bases with those in our group.

**Last week**, we saw the importance of casting vision early and often. How did you do with that this week? Remember, these bases have an order to them – you can't run straight to third! Jesus set the example when He cast vision with His disciples at the very beginning (Matt. 4:19). He continued to cast vision with them until the very end (Matt. 28:19-20). Jesus is our example. He is the master disciple maker. The vision we are casting is simple: "God's primary purpose for your life is to become a disciple of Jesus who makes disciples of Jesus. We can teach you how to do that in our small group."



***Once we reach first base, we can move to second base: modeling real-life relationships:***

As people, our tendency is to move through the motions. To check off boxes. To compartmentalize our lives. In small group, it is far too easy to trade real-life discipleship for the trap of facilitating. Here's what we mean:

1. **Real-Life Discipleship:** A discipleship relationship that is deeply personal and relational. A relationship where we share life together, share truth together, and learn to be like Jesus together. A relationship where I give you the right to know everything about me, and you give me the right to know everything about you. This is the type of relationship Jesus used to make disciples.
2. **The Trap of Facilitation:** A small group that meets faithfully and can even be fun and friendly. They come together once a week to study the Bible, pray, and even enjoy each other's company. When the group is over, everyone goes their own way. No one really knows what is going on during the week, and discipleship conversations typically only happen at small group.

**If you are 100% honest, of these two groups, which one best describes your group?**

At Western Hills, we are not aiming at starting new small groups. We are aiming at making disciples of Jesus. Small groups are simply a vehicle that help us reach that destination. Jesus made disciples in a small group, but His small group was focused on forming real-life relationships. Is that your focus?

As the leader, you are the one who creates the culture in your group. Your first step towards second base is to model real-life relationships. Do this in your own transparency. Do this in the way you love the group throughout the week. Do this by sharing at least one very personal real-life relationship in your group. Model real-life relationships, and cast vision for others to share real-life relationships, too.