



Week 5: September 15-21

Welcome / Introduce Guests

Open in Prayer

Recall the Guidelines

10min

2min

Share the Vision: You've heard it every week for a while now. Could someone tell us what our primary mission is as a small group? What are we aiming at as a small group? Why?

5min

Hook Question: Can you share about a relationship that has meant a lot to you because of the loyalty someone showed you? What made you feel that way about the relationship?

2min

Retell Last Week's Story: Numbers 22:21-38 (Balaam's donkey)

4min

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

Elijah was one of the greatest prophets of the Old Testament. The Holy Spirit was on Elijah and worked through Elijah in some pretty incredible ways. Elijah was a prophet used by God to accomplish God's will, speak His truth, and carry out His purposes on the earth. Elijah had a disciple named Elisha. When Elijah's ministry ended, Elisha took up his mantle. Today's story is about that transfer of ministry from Elijah to Elisha.

Here is a detail that may help you understand the story. In the Old Testament, Israelites would tear their garment of clothing when they experienced grief or when they wanted to express humility.

As you hear this story, listen carefully for insights about people, about relationships, about God, and about the Holy Spirit. This is where our story begins...

12min

Tell the story from 2 Kings 2:1-18: 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 2:1-18: 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?
- How 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.)

Heart & Hand
Questions:
Slow down &
wait!

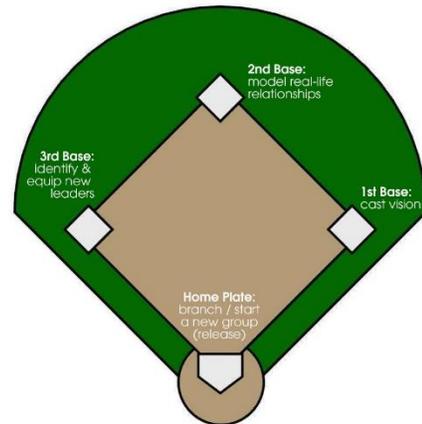
- What do you think God is trying to show you right now? How do you need to change?
- Who could retell the story for us right here one last time?

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



Week 5: Home Plate – Branch/Start a New Group

The goal of rounding the bases is to raise up disciples of Jesus who are mature and fully equipped to make disciples of Jesus. Over the past few weeks we have looked at each base. Now, it is time to bring it home. Disciple-makers are leaders. They bring people together to help them grow as fully-devoted followers of Christ. When this happens, new groups inevitably form. That's why home plate is starting/branching a new group – or releasing those we disciple to disciple others. Here are three things to keep in mind as you bring it home...



1. Our goal is to make disciples, not to start new groups.

Jesus did not commission us to go into the world to make new small groups. He commissioned us to go and make disciples. Small groups are the by-product of disciple-making, not the end goal.

2. Disciple-makers who follow the example of Jesus inevitably start new groups.

At the same time, it is important that we realize that disciple-makers do the work of making disciples and they follow the example of Jesus. Jesus recruited twelve guys to be in His small group. Jesus aimed at equipping those twelve guys to disciple others the way He disciplined them. If we become a fully equipped disciple-maker, we will inevitably lead a group. The group may just have one or two other people in it, or it may have more. The size of the group isn't the point. The point is that we will form relationships with others, meet with them regularly, and aim at helping them reach a point where they can do the same. That's what disciple-makers do.

3. You can learn to lead a small group that is all about making disciples who make disciples.

Discipleship is an acquired skill. It is something you have the capacity to learn to do. The first step is to join a group that has an intentional leader that is leading the group to be disciples who make disciples of Jesus. Learn from their example. Listen to them cast vision. Watch them model real-life relationships. Ask them to help equip you as a leader. Participate in trainings with them (like our upcoming 400 course on September 27-28). Go through the *Real-Life Discipleship Training Manual* together. Practice meeting with people one-to-one in your small group. Learn to story and facilitate. Be active in group chats and text messages. If you get active in the game, it won't be long until you start feeling ready to lead.

Interested in starting a group? Talk to your current group leader! Are you a group leader that has someone who wants to start a group leader? Inform your coach and start the process! Let's go make disciples together.