

transformed.

Week 2 (April 8-14): Lesson Guide

Introduce guests.

Cast vision and share guidelines. Ask: "What is the purpose of the guidelines?" Answer: To be relational!

Open in prayer.

Testimony: On week two, a group member will share their testimony. Group leaders should be available to help the group member prepare their story. Contact your coach if you need further assistance.

Hook Question: What questions would you like to ask about the story/testimony you just heard? (If no questions are presented or if time allows, ask, "What stood out to you the most in the story you just heard?")

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

Who is Paul? Paul is responsible for writing over a quarter of the New Testament in the Bible. Additionally, most of the book of Acts centers around Paul's ministry. Paul is the most famous missionary in church history. The Holy Spirit used Paul to begin a movement that transformed the world. Paul was all in for Jesus, giving up His life to see others find life in Christ. He was willing to suffer incredible loss so that others could know Jesus. But Paul wasn't always this way.

Paul is a Greek name. It is a name Paul chose to take on as part of his ministry to the whole world. Before he was known as Paul, his name was Saul. Saul was a very different man than the Apostle Paul. Saul is a Jewish name, and it was his preferred name before he met Jesus because he wanted to be known as a religious leader among the Jews. Saul murdered Christians. Saul saw Jesus as a fraud. Saul wanted to crush Christianity and the message of Christ at its very roots.

Truly, the casual Bible reader might not even pick up on the fact that Saul and Paul are the same person! Saul's life was radically changed by an encounter with Jesus. Just as Jesus transformed Saul into the Apostle Paul, He can transform any and every life that encounters Him and puts their trust in Him.

Tell the story from Acts 9:1-22: Change up the storyteller often!

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

Read the story from Acts 9:1-22: Ask the group to read together.

Discuss these questions:

- Head Questions: Quicker tempo.
- Heart Questions: Slow down & wait!
- Action
- The Bible teaches that many people saw Jesus after He rose from the dead. Paul was one of them. But some who saw doubted. Was it just seeing Jesus that changed Paul? What really changed him?
 - What does this story teach us about people?
 - What does this story teach us about God?
 - How do you relate to this story? How is God speaking to your heart personally?
 - Has Jesus transformed your life like He transformed Saul? If yes, in what way? Be specific. If not, do you want Him to transform you? Would you like for this group guide you to faith right now?
 - Ask someone to retell this week's story one last time.
 - **Reminder:** There are people we all know who need to connect to Jesus and His Church. Invite them next week for our third week of *Transformed*. We will also hear _____'s testimony next week!

Recruit a storyteller for next week.

Close in prayer.

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Week 2: Coaching Guide

Pushing a Car: Building on Momentum

Did you know? It is so much easier to build on existing momentum than to generate it from scratch. Both require energy, no question about it. But it takes a lot more effort to get a broken-down car rolling than it does to keep it moving.

Easter Sunday was exciting! So many guests and new faces were part of our service. A service like that generates a lot of momentum. The car really gets rolling.

Easter Sunday was week one of Mission Month! The launching point, not the finish line. The tendency for a group of people after an event like Easter Sunday is to have a letdown. It is only natural. As leaders, it is our job to capture that momentum by celebrating and to inspire our teams to build on the momentum that has been created. We celebrated five baptisms this weekend! We welcomed dozens of new faces. This wasn't the culmination, it was the launching point.

There are three more guest speakers who will share their story in our services in April: Melissa Garroutte, Thomas Hill, and Lance Lang (and his HIA team). Three more people in your group will share their stories this month. How many more baptisms will we see? How many new faces will we welcome? How many people will get connected to a group? Part of the answers to these questions are bound up in our conscious choice to do our part.

Melissa is sharing this Sunday. It is a story you, your group, and your guests won't want to miss. Who needs to be there? Don't wait until you are sitting in the service to think to yourself, "Oh! I should have invited 'so-and-so!'" Don't wait! Share the video on Facebook through a private message. Text a link or an invite. Call them up personally to check on them and to invite them to come. Do your part to extend invitations. Leave the results up to God. Do your part.

Let's keep our foot away from the brake this month and continue to invest energy to keep the car moving! It starts with your heart before the Lord. Ask the Holy Spirit to stir you up personally. Catch a fire from God to see His Kingdom advanced. Transfer that passion into energy to do your part. Cast vision to your team. Invite people personally. Attend faithfully. Lead out as an intentional leader.

We are here for you! Feeling discouraged? Contact your coach! We are not in this alone. Discipleship is a team sport.