

transformed.

Week 4 (April 22-28): Lesson Guide

Introduce guests.

Cast vision: Say, “We are just a group of broken people working together to follow Jesus.”

Share guidelines and open in prayer.

Testimony: On week four, 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:

You have probably heard of the disciple of Jesus named Peter. Of the disciples of Jesus, Peter seemed to have the most flamboyant personality. He was outgoing, outspoken, and often out of balance. In one moment, Peter would be sharing a truth that Jesus would affirm. In the next moment, Jesus would find need to rebuke Peter for the lies coming out of his mouth! In many ways, Peter was unstable.

Perhaps Peter is most famously known for his response to those around him on the night of Jesus’s death. Just hours before, Peter had boldly proclaimed to Jesus and the rest of the disciples that he would stand with Jesus to the point of death. Jesus responded, “I tell you the truth, Peter—this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times” (Matt. 26:34). Jesus’s prophetic words came to pass. When Jesus was captured, Peter ran. When Peter was recognized as one of Jesus’s disciples, He denied it three times. Peter went away and wept bitterly in shame. Not the kind of person most of us would choose to lead a new movement, but Jesus had great plans in mind for Peter.

Fast forward some days. Jesus died and rose again. Peter saw Him. Jesus told Peter and the rest of the disciples that He was going to ascend into heaven and that they should wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Jesus ascended, and they waited. One day, on the day called Pentecost, the Holy Spirit arrived and entered into every person who believed by faith in Jesus. When that Spirit arrived, it transformed them. Peter is an incredible example of this change! Peter spoke out and was the first to share the gospel publicly. He stood up in the public square and preached to thousands. What a transformation! The man who ran became the first to proclaim the good news. God used Peter that day in an incredible way. He finished preaching and called for a response from those who listened. This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from Acts 2:37-42: Change up the storyteller often!

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

Read the story from Acts 2:37-42: Ask the group to read together.

Discuss these questions:

Head Questions:
Quicker tempo.

- What stands out to you about this story? What do you like or dislike?
- What does this story teach us about people?
- What does this story teach us about God?

Heart Questions:
Slow down & wait!

- Do you believe the Holy Spirit has changed you like He changed Peter? Why or why not?
- What do you need to change based on this story?

Action

- Ask someone to retell the story one last time.

Recruit a storyteller for next week.

Close in prayer.

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Week 4: Coaching Guide

It Isn't About Group, It's About Making Disciples

With all the emphasis in our church family about group, it can be easy to begin to believe that group is the mission of the church. The truth is, our mission isn't about having groups at all.

The mission we share is the mission Jesus gave us: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations. Baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:18-20). Our mission isn't to have groups. Our mission is to make disciples.

Jesus is the master disciple-maker. No one, ever, in all history, has done it better. From twelve guys grew a mighty movement that has swept the earth. Therefore, Jesus is our example for how to make disciples. **How did He do it?**

First, He was relational with his disciples. He shared life with them. He shared food with them. He shared traveling experiences with them. He shared ministry with them. He was transparent with them. He prayed with them. He gave Himself to them.

Second, Jesus made disciples in a team setting. He did not recruit twelve guys then meet with them all separately! Jesus spent time with the twelve. He gave more energy, focus, and attention to the twelve. His model for discipleship was in community. It was team discipleship.

Finally, Jesus was intentional in His disciple-making. He found faithful men to share His life with. He told them stories. He shared new truths with them. He found ways to integrate spiritual conversations in the middle of just living life together. He gave them assignments so they could be part of the team.

Jesus's example shows us that discipleship is relational, a team effort, and intentional. Consider this question, "Are you following Jesus's example?" Leading a group does not automatically equal following Jesus's example in making disciples. Group is a vehicle that helps us get to where we are going. We aren't going to group, we are going to make disciples.

If we are not careful, group will just become a weekly event. When that happens, it loses its primary purpose. Don't make group about the meeting! The meeting is important, but it is not what is most important! The most important thing you do in your group is build relationships, engage the team, and lead them intentionally. Follow Jesus' example. Don't just go to group this week. Go make disciples.