



Week 1: July 12-18

10min Welcome / Introduce Guests / Share Life
Recall the Guidelines / Open in Prayer

Share the Vision: Throughout Scripture, God has an MO when fulfilling His purposes: He uses unlikely people. Our group is filled with unlikely people. God’s purpose for our group is to make disciples of Jesus. As we start this new series and hear these stories, let’s remember that we are heroes because of Jesus.

2min Hook Question: Why do you think people, as a whole, love to see underdogs succeed?

2min Ask someone from your team to read or tell the following background for the story:

Do you ever feel like you are at a disadvantage? As the Son of Man, Jesus was an unlikely hero. In His humanity, He didn’t have very much going for Him. He was born in poverty and to a mother who was pregnant out of wedlock (Jesus was born of the virgin, Mary... but many would not have believed her and Joseph’s story). Upon His birth, a king was seeking to kill Him. After escaping, Jesus was raised in a town called Nazareth, which is comparable to “the hood” in our time. In fact, the saying about Nazareth at that time was, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Jesus didn’t have a strong formal education – He was just a tradesman. Jesus was a brown man in a white man’s world. The government in power was Rome, and Jesus was born as a Middle Eastern man. Jesus was not even a citizen of the Roman Empire. By the time He was an adult, Jesus’s mother was without a husband. Jesus never owned property, and He didn’t even have a house. Yes, in His humanity, Jesus was very unlikely to succeed.

But Jesus did not appeal to His humanity as the basis of His identity. Jesus knew, by faith, that He was the Son of God. As the Son of God, Jesus was a very likely hero, despite His disadvantages. Did you know that you are also a son or daughter of God, if you have believed on Jesus? John 1:12 says, “But to all who did receive him [Jesus], who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”

The basis of Jesus’s identity was not in being the son of man, but in His faith that He was the Son of God. Because of this, Jesus had incredible power to do the will of God. Though Jesus had desires in His flesh, He constantly walked by faith in who He was in the Spirit. Perhaps the clearest example of this is found in Jesus’s behavior in the Garden on the Mount of Olives just moments before soldiers were to arrive to arrest Him and have Him executed. Listen carefully as Jesus identifies His personal desires in the flesh, but chooses to place those desires under the control of the Spirit. This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from Luke 22:39-46: Remember to change up the storyteller often.

12min **Rebuild the story: Group members retell the story based on what they remember.**

Read the story from Luke 22:39-46: 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 about this story? Why?
- What does this story teach us about us as people?
- What does this story teach us about God?

Heart & Hand Questions: Slow down & wait!

- What is God showing you right now? How do you need to respond?
- Who could retell the story for us? **CHALLENGE:** Tell the story to someone this week!

Ask for a volunteer storyteller for next week. Close in prayer.



Week 1: Small Group Leader Checkup

What's the current condition of the culture in your small group? How are you doing when it comes to the essentials of effective small group leadership? Complete the culture checkup below. Place an "X" above the answer that best describes your group...

When someone misses, they are contacted by one or more group members who check on them and let them know they are missed:

Rarely (0) Sometimes (1) Mostly (2) Always (4)

How often does your group have a new visitor join the meeting?

Yearly, or less (0) Every 6 Months (1) Quarterly (2) Monthly, or more (4)

When a new visitor joins your group, how likely are they to stay connected?

Hardly Ever (0) 1 out of 5 (1) 1 out of 3 (2) Very likely (4)

How often do you meet with one or more members from your group outside your weekly meeting?

Rarely (0) Once every couple months (1) Monthly (2) Almost every week (4)

When someone in your group is going through a difficult situation, how often does the group rally together to serve (provide meal, visit in hospital, help with need, etc.)?

Rarely (0) Sometimes (1) Frequently (2) Always (4)

How often does your group get together for fun and invite others to connect?

Yearly, or less (0) Every 6 Months (1) Quarterly (2) Every 4-8 weeks (4)

How often does your group share communion (The Lord's Supper) together?

Yearly, or less (0) Every 6 Months (1) Quarterly (2) Every 4-8 weeks (4)

How often does your group share a meal together?

Yearly, or less (0) Every 6 Months (1) Quarterly (2) Every 4-8 weeks (4)

How often does your group review the guidelines at your meeting?

Quarterly, or less (0) Monthly (1) Bi-weekly (2) Rarely miss (4)

How often does your group mix up the storyteller?

Quarterly, or less (0) Monthly (1) Bi-weekly (2) Nearly every week (4)

Do you have an apprentice who is helping you lead with the intention of branching?

No (0) I did, but I'm looking for a new one (2) Yes (4)

How often do you communicate with your coach?

Quarterly, or less (0) Monthly (1) Bi-weekly (2) Nearly every week (4)

Does your group have a group chat where members can easily share updates with the entire group?

No (0) Yes (4)

How often do group members share updates with you and other members during the week?

Quarterly, or less (0) Monthly (1) Bi-weekly (2) Nearly every week (4)

How often do you cast the vision for your group to make disciples personally and to work towards growing and branching the group together?

Quarterly, or less (0) Monthly (1) Bi-weekly (2) Nearly every week (4)

Have you ever completed the 12-weeks in the Real-Life Discipleship Training Manuel?

No (0) Yes (4)

Have you ever taken someone through the Real-Life Discipleship Training Manuel?

No (0) Yes (4)

When someone from your group misses on Sunday morning, how often do you personally contact them to let them know they were missed?

Quarterly, or less (0) Monthly (1) Bi-weekly (2) Nearly every week (4)

CALCULATE YOUR SCORE: (there are 18 total questions)

Number of questions answered "0": _____ x 0 = 0

Number of questions answered "1": _____ x 1 = _____

Number of questions answered "2": _____ x 2 = _____

Number of questions answered "3": _____ x 3 = _____

Number of questions answered "4": _____ x 4 = _____

TOTAL SCORE: _____

UNDERSTANDING YOUR SCORE: (based on score totals)

- **56-72 means...** your group is on track! Just go back and see where you can continue to make adjustments to strengthen your leadership and group culture.
- **40-55 means...** you've made good progress, but there are some immediate adjustments to make. Make a list of areas to work on and review them with your coach.
- **39 or less means...** it is time to revisit your training and make important adjustments that will help you create a disciple-making culture for your group. Contact your coach and schedule a time to review your checkup and talk strategy.