



Week 3: July 26 – August 1

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

2min **Share the Vision: As disciples who are on mission for Jesus, we can love others unlike any other people. Let's stir each other up to love people well as we gather and as we go about our weeks so that we can make more disciples of Jesus.**

5min **Hook Question:** When was a time you experienced an act of kindness from someone you didn't expect?

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

Through last week's story we learned about the extreme hatred that existed between Jews and Samaritans. A few things to remember about their relationship are:

- Samaritans were people who were considered a mixed race. (Part Jew, part other nationality)
- Samaritans held many Jewish customs and believed themselves to be God's people.
- Jews did everything they could to avoid encountering Samaritans.

In today's story, seventy-two people have just returned from telling people about the Messiah, Jesus. The Holy Spirit did a great work as they shared about Jesus in different cities. Jesus and His followers rejoiced in this!

While celebrating a lawyer wanted to know for himself how he could obtain eternal life. Jesus responded asking "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" The lawyer answered quoting the greatest commandments, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." He answered the question correctly! Jesus said, "Do this and you will live."

However, the lawyer felt a need to justify himself and asked another important question, "Who is my neighbor?" This is where our story begins...

12min **Tell the story from Luke 10:29-37: Remember to change up the storyteller often.**
Rebuild the story: Group members retell the story based on what they remember.
Read the story from Luke 10:29-37: 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 people?
- What does this story teach us about God?

Heart & Hand Questions: Slow down & wait!

- How is the Holy Spirit working in your life through this story?
- 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 3: Small Group Leader Check-up

Over the past two weeks you have been asked to evaluate your group. Sometimes, being asked to do evaluations can be tedious and/or difficult. Ultimately, as the leader of your group, you are evaluating how well you are leading. This can lead to feelings of success, relief, or guilt depending on how you view yourself. But remember, your ability to lead does not define who you are. Who you are in Christ defines who you are. It is His ability to work through you and others that brings about change.

So, why evaluate your group and how well you are leading your group?

First, good leaders are always looking for ways to improve. Your group can be vibrant and healthy. But, if you are not being intentional about addressing important issues within the group, it will stall. This does not mean we want to be overly critical. But we do want to make sure we are creating an environment where intentional disciple-making can take place each week. Asking hard questions and addressing specific issues in a loving way helps a group continue to grow. Jesus was the master of asking questions that caused his disciples to evaluate themselves. We need to do the same so everyone can continue to grow.

Second, having a series of questions like the questions from the past two weeks help leaders think about things they may not have thought about before. It is good to have outside perspective and guidance. Scripture tells us that there is wisdom in an abundance of counselors. We will talk about this more next week, but looking at questions from other leaders is a great way to grow.

Lastly, evaluating your group allows you to see things that should be celebrated! Often, celebrating the good that takes place in group is overlooked. We need to focus on celebrating MORE than on correcting, even though correction is still necessary. Celebrating what God has done through your group encourages and empowers your members to keep contributing to group in a positive way. In Luke 10, Jesus rejoices in the work of the Holy Spirit after the seventy-two disciples reported what God had done as they shared about Jesus in different places. Let's be like Jesus and celebrate what God has done.

If you have not gone through the evaluation questions already, be encouraged to do so today! Just look up the Coaching Guide from last week.