



Week 4: August 2-8

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

2min **Share the Vision: Disciples of Jesus are faithful to pursue Christ daily. Let us stir each other up to be faithful in our pursuit of Christ in all we do.**

5min **Hook Question:** When was a time you chose to love someone who treated you poorly?

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

Paul was a man who converted from Judaism to Christianity because of a powerful encounter with Jesus. Paul, whose name was Saul at the time, was traveling when Jesus appeared to him and asked why Saul was persecuting Him. Paul was blinded, but after a few days, his sight was recovered, and he was radically changed.

Paul became a devout follower of Jesus and the greatest missionary in history. Paul went on 3 missionary journeys where he took the gospel not only to Jews, but also to Gentiles. Many began to follow Jesus because of Paul's obedience, but there was a great cost for Paul. Paul was hated by many. Jews especially hated him and as a result of this hatred he suffered great physical harm. However, Paul's attitude towards this suffering was to boast in Christ (see 2 Corinthians 12:9-10). Paul continued to love people despite how he was treated.

Today's story is an example of Paul loving his enemies well. He and his friend, Barnabas, are on his first missionary journey. They are in a town called Lystra where they perform a miracle. This leads the people to believe that Paul and Barnabas are gods. They quickly recant this belief and share the gospel with the people.

After this, some Jews from Antioch and Iconium show up. This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from Acts 14:19-23: 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 Acts 14:19-23: 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 trying to teach you right now, and how do you need to apply it to your life?
- 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: Disciple Making Culture

Tim Elmore would tell you in his book, Habitudes, that there are two types of people. There are people who are like a thermostat or there are people who are like a thermometer. People who are like a thermostat change the environment around them. They create either a positive or negative culture for those they are around. They are leaders and influencers. People who are like a thermometer reflect the environment around them. While they may contribute in some ways, they take their cues from their leaders (thermostats).

As a small group leader, you should be the thermostat for your group. Brandon Guindon says in his book, Disciple Making Culture, “As the leader goes, so goes the culture.” This puts a lot of responsibility on each small group leader, but the reason you are leading a group is because of your life and ability to be a thermostat instead of a thermometer.

Over the next few weeks, we will look at 4 key components of developing a positive culture for small group. These components are:

1. Biblical Foundation – Is your group centered around the word of God?
2. Intentional Leadership – Are you being intentional in how you lead people in your group?
3. Relational Environment – Do people feel welcomed and comfortable sharing real life in your group?
4. Reproducible Process – Can anyone replicate what is being done in your small group?

Our desire as we look at these components of small group is that your group would continue to flourish. Many groups can say “yes” to each of these. Some may not. But everyone can continue to grow in their ability to lead as we continue to develop a positive disciple-making culture in our church.