



Week 5: August 9-15

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

2min **Share the Vision: Making disciples of Christ is always centered around God's word. Let's spend time focusing on what the Holy Spirit wants to say to us through His word.**

5min **Hook Question:** When was there a time you reacted to someone out of frustration or anger instead of responding with respect in truth and love?

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

Over the past two weeks we have looked at the life of Paul and how he was an unlikely hero. In today's story, we will see how this pattern continued in his life.

Jews hated Paul. In their minds he was a traitor and a liar, but his teachings about the gospel were well received among the Gentiles. This infuriated the Jews. After reaching their breaking point, over 40 Jewish leaders plotted to kill Paul. Paul's nephew overheard the plot of the Jews and told the governor of the region. This resulted in 200 soldiers, 70 horsemen, and 200 spearmen going to retrieve Paul to protect him and put him on trial.

Paul would serve time in jail and be put on trial several times. After two years, Paul would stand before King Agrippa. He started his defense by telling how he was, at one point, opposed to Jesus. He told of how he had imprisoned many followers of Christ. Many of those people were put to death with his approval. But then God got hold of his life. This is where our story begins...

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

Tell the story from Acts 26:12-32: Remember to change up the storyteller often.

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

Read the story from Acts 26:12-32: Ask the group to read these verses.

12min

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 can you learn from this story and how can you apply it to your life?
 - Read 1 Peter 3:15 – How can you follow Paul's example of living this verse out?
- 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 5: Disciple Making Culture

Building a biblical foundation for small group is the first step towards developing a great culture. Therefore, we tell stories from God's word each week. Stories are simple, easy to relate to, and anyone can tell a story. Small group without God's word is simply hanging out. There may be some great conversations. There may be transparency and prayer, but we are missing an essential and rich part of why we gather when we don't center our time together around God's word.

If a group doesn't center their time around God's word they miss out on:

1. The promptings of the Holy Spirit that come from His word
2. Different perspectives and healthy dialogue about the meaning and application of Scripture
3. Conviction of sin and action steps towards obedience to Christ
4. Learning new stories from the Bible
5. Being stirred by the Holy Spirit through each other to love and good works
6. AND MORE!!!

We see in the lives of Jesus and Paul that they centered their time with those they were discipling around Scripture. God's word is our ultimate authority. The Holy Spirit works mightily through His word. As a result, the people these men invested in were changed forever. We must follow their example and love people well by sharing the truth of God's word with them.

Lastly, if we are going to create a culture that is built on a biblical foundation, we must spend time in God's word daily. Not only do we need to spend time in His word, but we must allow the Holy Spirit to transform our lives through His word so that we can have something to share with others.

Tim Elmore has another story he uses called, "The Starving Baker" that is a great example of this. In this story, a man opens a pastry shop that is amazing. He is full of life and his pastries are the best in town. Over time, though, he begins to look ill. While he is spending time feeding everyone else delicious food, he is not eating. His strength fails. Eventually, his shop closes because he is not able to continue serving other people.

There are many things we can learn from this story. But, the main point is that if we are not spending time with God daily, we will not have anything to give to our groups. If we are going to build a biblical foundation, we must be in God's word and let Him work in our hearts and minds so that we can love people well.