



Week 13 (July 26-August 1): Lesson Guide

Open In Prayer

Welcome/Introductions

Ask the group to recall the guidelines for discussion that we use to create a safe environment.

Ask someone to retell last week's story from Mark 6:7-13 (Jesus sends the disciples out in twos).

Ask someone on your team to read the Hook Question - Ask, "What are some things the world has to offer that draw your heart away from God?"

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

Recently, we have told a few stories from the life of Elijah, one of the greatest prophets of Israel (the story of the ravens bringing food, the story of the widow with the oil and flour, and the story of God speaking to Elijah after the whisper). Elijah had a successor named Elisha. When Elisha took over Elijah's role, he asked for a double portion of the spirit of Elijah to be with him. God granted his request! Elijah performed 7 recorded miracles, but Elisha performed 14 recorded miracles! Additionally, Elisha has more recorded prophecies than Elijah.

Elisha had a servant named Gehazi (gee-HAY-zai). Gehazi was a witness of God's power in Elisha – he had even seen God use Elisha bring a dead boy back to life!

There was once a man named Naaman, a commander in the Syrian king's army. Naaman was a great leader, but he had leprosy. One day, Naaman heard about the prophet Elisha in Israel, and he believed Elisha could restore his health! So Naaman took many gifts and went to see Elisha. Sure enough, Elisha healed Naaman! As a result, Naaman said he would only serve the one true God. Naaman offered many gifts to Elisha to show his appreciation. However, Elisha declined the gifts and sent the man on his way. Elisha's focus was not on this world, but on things above. However, Elisha's choice to decline the valuable gifts did not sit well with his servant, Gehazi. This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from 2 Kings 5:19b-27

Rebuild the story – (Group members tell the story based on what they remember)

Read 2 Kings 5:19b-27 – (Ask the group to read these scriptures)

Discuss these questions:

- What do you think possessed Gehazi to make this poor decision?
- What was the difference between Elisha's heart and Gehazi's heart?
- Who do you relate to in this story? Why?
- Recently, have you behaved like Gehazi? Would you be transparent and share how?
- What needs to change in you based on this story?

Ask for a volunteer to retell the story one last time.

Ask for a volunteer to tell the story next week.

Prayer Requests (ask someone in the group to take notes so you can email the requests to the group)

Pray (don't feel the need to mention every request in prayer again, just pray for the group and send the email)



Week 13: Leadership Coaching Guide

Leading [learn to facilitate your group more effectively]

- Ground rules allow our teams to work together to create a safe environment where transparency and spiritual growth can happen. Over the next few weeks, our coaching guide will highlight some of our ground rules for team meetings.
- When it comes to ground rules, it can be healthy to remind your team that we do not have an expectation that they would always use these ground rules in every discipleship situation. These are ground rules that we agree to apply for about an hour and a half of storying and discussion once a week.
- You should ask your team to review the ground rules every week before you start your meeting! This creates an easy opportunity for you to emphasize certain ground rules that your team needs to work on. Avoid saying things like, “We need to do a better job at this one.” Instead, ask questions like, “Why do you think we have this ground rule?” This is a less aggressive approach to steering your team towards a common goal.

Shepherding [know the sheep, feed the sheep, lead the sheep, protect the sheep]

- Although our ground rules should not always set the precedent for every discipleship situation, these ground rules can be a very healthy reminder for every discipleship leader. Whether you are talking over coffee or visiting the hospital with a team member, these ground rules serve as a helpful guide. The key is understanding the heart behind each ground rule. That is what we will address over the next several weeks in our shepherding section.
- Remember, ground rules should always be used in the group meeting, but should only serve as a guide in other discipleship situations. “Not Fixing” is a great rule to create order and transparency in the meeting, but sometimes when you are one to one it is appropriate for you to share new truth in response to something the person you are disciplining says.

Developing [grow as a disciple yourself]

- Jesus said, “All authority is given to me in heaven and on earth” (Matthew 28:18).
 - Do you value authority?
- Jesus Christ was under the authority of His Father in heaven... He went as far as saying that He could only do what He saw the Father was doing! Everyone is subject to some kind of authority. There is one chain of command and the ultimate authority at the top is God.
- When you are under authority, you are then able to assume authority. Your authority as a team leader ultimately comes from the Lord. God is using the leaders in your local church to provide you a platform and biblical authority to make disciples. This is to your advantage.
- Are you living under authority, or are you compromising your authority? Living under authority means valuing and submitting to the leadership God provides. Compromising your authority is most commonly recognized by disregarding instruction or doing things your own way in spite of what God leads you to do through those He has placed over you.
- Are you leading your small group in such a way that it is evident that you value and trust your authorities?
- Prayerfully consider your heart. If you are living under authority, ask the Lord to keep your heart focused on Him. If you are living out from under authority, repent – first to the Lord and then to the authorities you have abused through your words or behavior.