



SPOKEN.

WHEN WORDS CHANGE THE WORLD

Week 1 (September 6-12): 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 on your team to read the Hook Question - Say, "Tell us about a time when you really thought you knew something to be true but later found out that you were dead wrong."

Ask someone to retell last week's story from Matthew 25:31-46 (the sheep and the goats).

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

How did Jesus expect others to know that He was the Messiah, God's Son, and the One who would save the world from its sin? He expected them to read the Scriptures and understand that it was speaking of Him. Jesus showed many signs and wonders – according to the Scriptures. Jesus healed many people – according to the Scriptures. Jesus' body was pierced and crushed for our sins – according to the Scriptures. Jesus expected people to recognize Him because of the description provided in the Word of God. Shouldn't this impact our view of God's Word?

Our story takes place after the death and resurrection of Jesus, but before Jesus ascended into heaven. In the verses just before this story, some of the followers of Jesus had just visited the tomb and saw that Jesus' body was no longer there. Some messengers in bright clothes appeared to them and told them that Jesus had risen. They left the grave site amazed. This is where today's story picks up...

Tell the story from Luke 24:13-35

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

Read Luke 24:13-35– (Ask the group to read these scriptures)

Discuss these questions:

- What do you like about this story?
- What do you dislike about this story?
- What does this story teach us about God's Word, the Scriptures?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What does this story teach us about people?
- How does this story relate to your life?
- What do you need to change 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)

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Week 1: Coaching Guide

Leading [learn to facilitate your group more effectively]

- This week, let's consider the principles behind the ground rule of sharing the spotlight or not monopolizing the meeting time in group.
- When our group comes together, it is important that we start with a realization that discipleship certainly happens inside of group, but that it is not limited to group. If we start with the wrong view of group, it will influence the way we act in the meeting. For example, if you believe that group is the only valid place to share life and share transparently with other believers, you will feel the need to get everything out in one setting. However, if you recognize that church is a lifestyle and that we live out our lives in the context of Christian community, the pressure is off to say it all during group.
- Sharing the spotlight in group is important because it creates a relational environment. When one person talks a lot, even if they are saying great stuff, it creates an environment where others struggle to share transparently (especially the more reserved personality types). Listening shows love and genuine interest in others.

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

- In one-to-one discipleship meetings, the applications of sharing the spotlight may vary, but the principle is no less powerful...
 - You can't make disciples if you don't listen. Period. Discipleship happens as life is shared, and life is often shared through words – stories about what has been going on, what God is doing, how we have been feeling, what we have been struggling with, etc. To make disciples, one must develop the habit of being a good listener. This normally means listening at least as much as, if not more than, you talk.
 - Sharing the spotlight in a one-to-one settings also includes asking good questions. Good questions set up the opportunity for others to share. For example, instead of just asking someone how things are going, ask questions like:
 - What is something new that is going on at work?
 - How are your kids doing?
 - What is something you are excited about right now?
 - Is there anything that has been weighing heavy on your heart recently?
 - What has God been teaching you recently?
 - Questions like these will help guide others to transparent conversations. This will allow you the opportunity to listen and ask follow up questions to guide them deeper into the conversation. Through this skill, you will share life in a rich way.

Developing [grow as a disciple yourself]

- How often do you take time to just listen to God? This is tough for many of us. In our morning devotions, most of us like to finishing reading a passage, say a prayer, and move on. Do you ever allow time for God to talk to you?
 - Try this – after you finish a morning devotion this week, schedule a little time to do a “mindless” activity that you can do alone. You could go on a walk, work in the flowerbed, take a longer drive, ride a bike, go sit on a park bench, etc.
 - Once you are alone, spend at least fifteen minutes quieting your mind. Absorb the passages you read earlier, take in God's beautiful creation, and just wait. God may want to speak something very specific to you – if He does, write it down. God may not speak a specific idea to you, but He may just refresh your soul as you enjoy His silent company. Whatever happens, give God the spotlight. Allow Him to be relational with you.