



Week 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 on your team to read the Hook Question - Ask, "What is the greatest disappointment you have experienced in your life?"

Ask someone to retell last week's story from Numbers 21:4-9.

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

Through His servant Moses, God did many amazing signs and wonders for His people (Israel) to prepare them to enter into a land He had promised them. For example, right after he freed them from Egypt, God told Moses to strike a rock twice and water came out for the people to drink! As you may recall from last week's lesson, God made a way for His people to enter the Promised Land, but they rejected God and his servants (Moses, Aaron, Caleb, and Joshua). Because of their disobedience, God sentenced Israel to wander in the wilderness for 40 years; during which time all of the people age 20 and older would die and miss out on entering the Promised Land (except Joshua and Caleb). This had to be very disappointing for Moses!

When the time of wandering was coming to an end (about one year or so remaining), the people found themselves in need of something to drink once again. God told Moses to speak to a rock and water would come flowing out! Moses, in frustration towards the people, hit the rock twice instead of speaking to the rock. God still made water come out, but there was a consequence for Moses; he would not be permitted to enter the Promised Land! At one point, Moses pleaded with God to change His mind, but God would not. Have someone in your group read Deuteronomy 3:23-28 and listen to God's position on Moses entering the Promised Land. Once you finish reading this passage, the background is complete and you will be ready for this week's story.

Tell the story from Deuteronomy 34:1-8

Rebuild the story – (Group members work together to retell the story based on what they remember)

Read Deuteronomy 34:1-8 – (Ask the group to read these scriptures)

Questions for Discussion:

- What does this story teach us about God?
- What does Moses' willingness to accept God's decision tell us about him?
- Moses experienced a lot of disappointment. How do you think he won over disappointment?
- What disappointments are you experiencing right now?
- Based on our story and discussion, what do you need to do to win over your disappointments?

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 1: Leadership Coaching Guide

Leading [learn to facilitate your group more effectively].

- A few weeks ago we encouraged you to share the facilitator responsibilities with your group. For example, have one person read the Hook Question, someone else cover the background, and another member tell the story. Have you done this yet? Your group will never branch if you don't give people a chance to play!
- We want to make relational discipleship the engine that *DRIVES* our church! That means everything else is secondary relationships that lead to spiritual growth. Relationships should be fun!! The church is not a lifeless place; the church is full of life! Are your meetings fun yet? Do you eat together, laugh together, play together, and grow together? What could you do to have more fun? Try scheduling a cookout, meeting up with another small group for fellowship, going out to eat, inviting people over for a game night, have a date night and hire a babysitter, etc.
 - While having fun, don't lose sight of the main principles that lead people to be kingdom minded: 1) Be intentional - do your part, 2) create a safe, relational environment where people feel the freedom to share transparently, and 3) use storying and let others play so that your method is reproducible.

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

- Our primary print resource for small group coaching is *The Real Life Discipleship Training Manual*. Many of you have had someone coach you through this resource.
 - If you have never been through this resource, please consider asking your Mission Team Leader or coach (Pastor Jerry, Brandon Werner, or Nathan Redman) to get you a copy and guide you through the material.
 - If you have been through this resource, prayerfully consider asking a person in your group who has never been through the book to go through the material with you.
- When you go through this book, there are a few important things to keep in mind. First, the book is a tool and a guide. It is not intended to complicate discipleship, but to help one better understand biblical discipleship. Next, there are five daily lessons per week. Lessons are not intended to be stacked, so make sure you stay ahead. Finally, while going through this book, the people going through it together need to meet once per week to talk about the material. There is a leaders' guide in the back of the book that you can use when facilitating a meeting.

Developing [grow as a disciple yourself]

As intentional leaders, we will undoubtedly face difficult questions as we coach others to spiritual maturity. Britt Clay does a fantastic job of addressing this issue in his article for the May Newsletter (you should receive an email by Thursday, April 30 with a link to access the May Newsletter).

If we are going to be ready to give an answer to those who ask, we must know how to hear the Holy Spirit. One of the primary ways the Holy Spirit speaks is through His Word. Allowing your mind to be transformed by the Word of God will prepare you to be ready to give an answer to difficult questions. Will you join us as men and women of faith who diligently seek to read, memorize, and speak the Word of God on a daily basis? (Find great Bible reading plans & accountability tools at www.youversion.com!)