



## Week 2 (May 10-16): 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 something that you don't like about yourself?"

***Ask someone to retell last week's story from Deuteronomy 34:1-8.***

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

When the Bible speaks of Abraham, it speaks highly of him as a man of great faith. Abraham was chosen by God to be the father of the nation of Israel, God's chosen people. In the Bible, the descendants of Abraham are called the nation of Israel. God made a covenant (a promise) with Abraham. In that promise, God told Abraham that he would multiply his offspring to be a great nation, that he would give his offspring a land of promise, and that through Abraham all the nations of the earth would be blessed. The Bible says that Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness (Genesis 15:6).

Though Abraham was a great man of faith, he was still human and far from perfect. There are a few stories in the Bible where Abraham made some foolish decisions and costly mistakes. Abraham had a wife named Sarah. On more than one occasion, Abraham rejected Sarah his wife by treating her poorly and putting her in a difficult situation. Today our story is about one of those awkward situations. As we read this story and parts of the New Testament, we will see how Sarah dealt with rejection from her husband and we will discuss our own experience with rejection and share thoughts on how God wants to help us overcome feelings of rejection in our own lives.

***Tell the story from Genesis 20:1-18***

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

***Read Genesis 20:1-18*** – (Ask the group to read these scriptures)

***Questions for Discussion:***

- What do you think Sarah felt when her husband rejected her?
- How do you think Sarah responded to this rejection? (Allow your team to answer, then have someone read 1 Peter 3:1-6 for more insight.)
- When was the last time you felt rejection? What caused the feeling of rejection?
- When you experience rejection how do you normally respond?
- What do you think needs to change in you to respond like Sarah did to rejection?

***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 2: Leadership Coaching Guide

**Leading** [learn to facilitate your group more effectively].

- *Don't* talk more than the rest of the group – Ask questions to generate discussion, ask people to explain their answers and go into more depth. Allow multiple people to respond, even if the first person gets the “right” answer. Do your best not to interrupt.
- *Do* clarify some responses to your questions – If a person’s answer or comment is long-winded or unclear, repeat it back (summarize it) for clarity. This proves you are listening and it keeps the attention of the rest of the group.
- *Do* keep the group focused and on purpose – Don’t go down a rabbit trail and leave the topic and scripture passage unless something “big” comes up (e.g., a personal or family crisis). You need to be sensitive to the Spirit, but that’s not an excuse to let the group wander.

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

- Make an effort this week to connect with the people who have recently joined your group. It is important that they feel connected to your team. If possible, schedule a time for anyone in your group you don’t know as well to come over for dinner, to go out to eat after church, etc.
- Begin talking with your group about summer plans. Your plans should include spending time together, having fun together, and encouraging one another. What is something your group might want to do together this summer? Does someone have a pool you could all use, know of a concert you could all attend, or a special event going on downtown?

**Developing** [grow as a disciple yourself]

As a small group leader and disciple maker, you will be called upon to be a peacemaker from time to time. All believers are called to be peacemakers in a world filled with strife. How is this accomplished? Let’s look at four basic truths about peace:

1. Who is the source of peace? (Philippians 4:6-9)
2. What is the enemy of peace? (James 4:1-4)
3. Who is the minister of peace? (James 3:17-18)
4. What is the outcome of peace? (Matthew 5:9)

So, we see that God is the source of peace, sin is the enemy of peace, the Christian is the minister of peace, and being children of God (like Him) is the outcome of peace.

Be aware of situations where God wants to use His Holy Spirit to lead you to be a peacemaker.