



Week 3 (May 17-23): 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, "If you were going to be on the reality show, *The Amazing Race*, who would you choose as your partner and why?"

Ask someone to retell last week's story from Deuteronomy Genesis 20:1-18.

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

Following much grumbling by the Israelites, Samuel anointed Saul as the first king of Israel at the age of thirty and he reigned for forty-two years. After leading the people to victory over the Ammonites, Saul faced another enemy, the Philistines. During his reign as king he had many men at his disposal, but he only retained 3000 special troops and sent the rest of the army home. He took the 3000 and went to attack the Philistines, who were preparing for the attack by mustering up a much larger army of their own. Once the Israelite army saw what a tight spot they were in, they began to hide in caves, holes, and wherever else they could find.

Although Samuel had distinctly told Saul to wait for seven days for him to come and offer sacrifices before Israel went to battle, Saul became impatient and proceeded to offer the sacrifices himself. When Samuel did arrive, he was furious! He told Saul that because he had done this thing, God was going to end his kingdom on the throne, thereby removing His spirit from Saul from that moment.

Tell the story from 1 Samuel 14:1-15

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

Read 1 Samuel 14:1-15 – (Ask the group to read these scriptures)

Discuss these questions:

- What do you think the relationship between Jonathan and his armor-bearer was like?
- How does your willingness to fight alongside someone change as the relationship grows deeper?
- What battle are you fighting? Are you fighting it alone?
- Who are the people you need to allow to fight with you and be your armor-bearer?

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 3: Leadership Coaching Guide

Leading [learn to facilitate your group more effectively].

- Be transparent about what God is doing in your life. It's difficult to love someone as God calls us to do without really knowing them in a deep and meaningful way. Share from your heart and let down your walls so that others can really know you. Share not only your struggles and fears, but also the positives – dreams, hopes, answered prayers, etc. The group will only go as deep as you the leader, are willing to go.
- Ask openended questions, not “yes” or “no” questions, to promote healthy group discussion. For example: instead of “Did you share your faith this week?” which can be answered “yes” or “no” ask, “What is your greatest fear about sharing your faith?” which will begin a conversation.

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

- The group leader or apprentice does not always have to be the person who executes all the plans for the group. Part of shepherding your group includes delegating some of those responsibilities to others so that they can grow and mature by serving and taking part in caring for the other members of the group.

Developing [grow as a disciple yourself]

- Just as it's necessary to be open and transparent with those who are in your small group, it is also necessary for leaders to be connected to—at least one—someone that can handle your heart. As leaders mature, it can feel normal (or even necessary) to turn all attention off of self and focus only on those in need of ministry. Don't forget that you need to be ministered to also. Make sure that you have someone you are opening yourself to. (Our story and sermon this week illustrates this well!)
- Do you have someone in your life that knows you? *KNOWS YOU*? If this is not the case, your coach is the first place to start. He/She can be an excellent sounding board for your heart and mind. Remember, we run this race together.