



Week 4 (May 24-30): 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, "Do you have any phobias? What things scare you the most?"

Ask someone to retell last week's story from 1 Samuel 14:1-15.

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

The nation of Israel (God's chosen people) began to do what was evil in the site of the Lord. As a result, God allowed the nation of Midian to overtake Israel. They came in to the land of Israel and made camp in such large numbers that no one could even count them! They would wait until harvest and steal from Israel the proceeds of the land, their animals, and their positions. Israel was so afraid that they made caves and holes and hid themselves in fear. The people were hard pressed, and they eventually began to soften their hearts and cry out to the Lord for help.

When the time of deliverance came, God approached a man named Gideon and called Him "a mighty man of valor." Gideon replied, "Who, me? I am the weakest of my clan and family!" Nevertheless, God had a plan to use Gideon to deliver the nation of Israel from the hand of Midian. It took Gideon a while to believe, but once he did he gathered a large army in Israel – about 32,000 men! However, God wanted Israel to know that it was the Lord who was delivering them, not their own strength or power. Through a series of event, God led Gideon to cut the army from 32,000 men... to 10,000 men... to only 300 men! Gideon was now left to face an army that was countless in size with only 300 soldiers. It would be difficult to see a path to winning in this situation, but the Lord had a plan. This is where our story picks up...

Tell the story from Judges 7:9-23

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

Read Judges 7:9-23 – (Ask the group to read these scriptures)

Discuss these questions:

- Like Gideon, what has God asked you to do that has caused you to experience fear?
- When you face something that causes fear, how do you typically react?
- How did Gideon overcome his fear?
- What do you need to do to face your fears and win?

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 4: Leadership Coaching Guide

Leading [learn to facilitate your group more effectively].

- Use the hook question provided with each lesson to help transition the group to discussion time by focusing the group on what is coming next. The questions are designed to help spark discussion, point to the story, and get people thinking about how it applies to their lives. Most weeks your group will only spend about 5 minutes discussing the hook question - but if it sparks valuable discussion, you may decide to explore it a little longer.
- The background for the story is used to add context for the lesson, and it should not be overlooked. The background sets the scene for the person telling the story, and gives the group a way to know what is happening. Having the background available also enables us to put the “big picture” together in our minds as we see the stories fit together as a whole. We recommend that you do not read that background, but that you either 1) have someone in the group share it from memory or 2) have someone else in the group read the background for the story.

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

- Practical tips for developing the Mission Team Assistant...
 - Pray! Pray! Pray! Nothing else is more effective.
 - Allow your apprentice to have leadership responsibilities in the group. Start with small things first, and gradually build up over time.
 - Make sure your apprentice knows that he/she can approach you with anything, and will be received. Talk back and forth about issues in the group, but also allow your apprentice to talk about personal struggles as well.
 - Help your apprentice, as they grow toward spiritual parenthood, to identify someone they can be discipling and possibly have as an apprentice.
- Realize that you will not be able to disciple every person in your group. Your main responsibility is to disciple your apprentice and maybe one other. What does this mean for the other group members? It means that each person in your group should also be discipling someone else in the group. This is a more effective means of producing disciples who make disciples.

Developing [grow as a disciple yourself]

- John 13:35 says, “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” The word “love” is used in many different ways, so it is important for disciples to have a good understanding of the Biblical concept of love. Examine 1 Cor. 13:4-7 to better understand the characteristics of love.
- 1 Cor 13:4-7 begins, “Love is patient and kind.” Patient love waits without becoming exasperated, calmly explains again and again, listens to lengthy stories, and understands when mistakes are made. Kind love uses gentle words, cares tenderly for others, shows consideration and respect, and is helpful.
- A very accurate way to gauge whether you are displaying these characteristics is to substitute your name for the word love (i.e. John is patient and kind). As you study this passage, use this method to examine your life in light of the Biblical standard.