

# SPOKEN.

WHEN WORDS CHANGE THE WORLD

## Week 5 (October 4-10): 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 to retell last week's story from Luke 8:4-15 (the parable of the sower).**

**Ask someone on your team to read the Hook Question** – Ask, “If you are a follower of Jesus, what is something that has changed in your life since you decided to follow Him?”

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

When the Spirit of God comes upon something, He changes its entire nature. God's Spirit has the power to change the nature of anything! In today's story, we will see how God's power changes a donkey's nature so that the donkey speaks a human language. If God's Spirit can change the nature of a donkey and lead a donkey to do His will, He can certainly change your very nature and lead you to do His will.

It was the time of Moses and Joshua. The nation of Israel was once held captive by the nation of Egypt, but God delivered them from bondage. After that, God sent His people Israel across the wilderness towards a land He had promised them. As they went across the wilderness, God gave their enemies into their hands. They came upon a new nation, and their king, Balak, was very afraid of Israel because He had seen what had happened to the other nations. Balak called for a diviner by the name of Balaam to speak a curse over Israel, but the Lord God did not want Balaam to go. God told Balaam to stay put, so Balaam did. But then the king bribed Balaam with money, and Balaam asked God if he could go with them again. God said yes, but Balaam was only to say exactly what God wanted him to say. Something must have been wrong with Balaam's heart, because the Lord became angry with him. God's Spirit changed the nature of a donkey to get his attention. This is where our story begins...

**Tell the story from Numbers 22:22-35**

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

**Read Numbers 22:22-35**– (Ask the group to read these scriptures)

**Discuss these questions:**

- What do you like about this story?
- Is there anything you dislike about this story?
- What does this story teach us about people?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- How do you relate to this story?
- What needs to change inside your heart 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 5: Coaching Guide

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

- We have been reviewing our four pillars for being a disciple who makes disciples.
  - The first pillar we covered was having a biblical foundation. We accomplish this by using God's Word as our primary curriculum. The Word of God is preached on Sundays and shared through stories in groups every week. We also encourage our entire church to make a plan to read the Word of God every day.
  - We looked at the second pillar for discipleship last week – being an intentional leader. There are many ways to lead intentionally, but here is one primary principle: Ask, "What is my part?" In every situation there is God's part, their part, and your part. Ask yourself what your part is and do it! That will help you become a stronger intentional leader.
  - This week, let's consider the third pillar for discipleship – the relational environment.
- Creating a relational environment is defined as "A place where biblical relationships can grow. Where people are honest and do life together" (301 Leadership Playbook). Here are some things to consider as you prepare a relational environment for your next group meeting:
  - Meet in a home. Try to avoid the sterile environment of a classroom. Instead, host your group in your home, or ask one of your group members to let their home be the host home.
  - Share a meal together: every week if possible, but AT LEAST once a month. Very few things are as relational as eating together.
  - Share life. Ask questions that lead to the opportunity for others to share about what is happening in their lives. Learn to become genuinely interested in the lives of your people.
  - Help your group feel safe by reviewing the ground rules every week. This will remind everyone that group is a place where people can be authentic, accountable, and transparent.

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

- A relational environment is not something that should only happen at group, however. As a discipleship leader, you should carry a relational environment wherever you go!
  - Learn to ask great questions: Take a moment to read this short article about questions that will change the way you love others: [Conversations that Lead to Deeper Relationships](#)
  - Invite others to live life with you. Going out for lunch? Invite a friend. Going to the movies with your family? Invite another family. Playing games at home? Invite your group spontaneously. Show others that you want them to be part of your life.
  - Let others see your true colors. We all have masks we wear in front of others. Take off the masks and share life transparently. Be sensitive to the weaknesses of others, but be willing to take risks and live life with those God has called you to lead.

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

- Are you authentic?
  - Your transparency will enhance your relationship with the Lord and with His church.
  - Your transparency will spawn a deeper level of sharing among group members.
  - Your self-disclosure will foster deeper fellowship within the entire group.
- We all have masks. These masks distance us from each other. Removing the masks requires risk, because others may see us for who we really are. They may not like us, or judge us, or even be offended by something we do or say.
- But isn't the reward worth the risk? Being authentic with people leads to real conversations about beliefs. It leads to exploring the Word of God together in search for the Kingdom way of living. It leads to opportunities to resolve conflict biblically and grow together spiritually. It swings the door for true life-on-life discipleship wide open.
- All of us have masks. We wear them in front of the church and even in front of the Lord. It is time to put the masks back on the shelf and live out the gospel for the world to see.