



Week 9 (June 28-July 4): 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 1 Samuel 31:1-13 (Saul and Jonathan).

Ask someone on your team to read the Hook Question - Ask, "When have you experienced someone loving you in a way that you did not deserve?"

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

In Jesus's day, Jews and Samaritans were bitter enemies. Neither liked the other, and compassion between these groups was nearly unheard of. In fact, mentioning Samaritans around a Jewish group was a sure fire way to create tension. However, Jesus's heart was filled with compassion for all people, and He wanted His followers to experience His compassionate heart. The Bible gives an example of Jesus's heart of compassion in Matthew 9:36. When Jesus saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because He saw them as lost, harassed, as sheep without a shepherd.

Today's story is a story Jesus told a lawyer while His disciples were present. The story was intended to show the lawyer and the disciples a picture of love that comes from a compassionate heart. To win in relationships with people who don't know Jesus, we must share Jesus's heart of compassion for them.

Tell the story from Luke 10:25-37

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

Read John Luke 10:25-37 – (Ask the group to read these scriptures)

Play the Video (optional): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=53Pqw20xK10>

Discuss these questions:

- This story has a lot of details (donkey, oil and wine, night at the inn, money, etc.). How do these details paint a picture of what love looks like?
- Why is it important to love lost people (people who do not know Jesus) in this way?
- Who do you relate to in this story? Why?
- After hearing this story, what does God want to change in you?

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 9: Leadership Coaching Guide

Leading [learn to facilitate your group more effectively]

- Asking good questions is essential for an effective small group. When it is time to ask questions during group time, start with the ones we have provided for you. As time allows, and as you begin to discern what is going on in the group, ask deeper questions relative to the discussion.
- Ask open-ended questions. Don't ask questions that can be answered with "yes" or "no". You want to engage people in conversation. Start your questions with "What", "How", "When", and "Why". These starters will allow people to be more open in their answers.

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

- Just as a shepherd knows whether or not his flock is thriving, you should have a good feel for how your group is doing. However, it is a good idea to check in with your group occasionally and ask how they feel things are going.
- A group check-in can be helpful two or three times each year. Checking in with your group will help you see where your group is buying in and where they need to grow. Here are some good questions to help you guide your group:
 - As a group, how are we doing when it comes to reaching out to new people?
 - What does our group need to work on to make our meeting a more welcoming environment?
 - Who has God placed in your life that you should invite to group? How could our team help you?
 - Does anyone have a spiritual or physical need that we may not be aware of?

Developing [grow as a disciple yourself]

- How are you doing with the challenge of inserting your name in the phrases about the characteristics of love found in the Bible? It can be quite convicting! Insert your name in this week's sentence about love. "It (love) does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out."
- Can you say that you hate injustice and celebrate truth? Do you fight for justice for those who cannot advocate for themselves? Do you want the best outcome, even for your enemies? Do you rejoice in the virtue of others?
- Be intentional this week to celebrate with someone around you who is embracing truth, has made a good choice, or is pressing in to their relationship with God.