

August 27, 2017- Controversy and Growth

Open in Prayer

Welcome/Introductions

[If there are new people in your group, give brief introductions.]

Remind the group of DiscipleGroup Guidelines

DISCIPLEMAKER QUESTIONS

- What has changed in your life because of what you learned last week?
- Has God placed someone in your life outside this group that you need to invest in?
- How do you think God wants you to do this?

Ask a “hook question” to get the group going.

- Share a time when a disagreement and parting of ways with a friend helped you change for the better.

Share background for the story.

Last week we saw how Paul and Barnabas returned to cities where they had evangelized in order to encourage the churches. Then they went back to Antioch and stayed there for a long time. In Acts 15 we learn that Paul and Barnabas went to Jerusalem to meet with the apostles and other leaders to talk about sharing the Gospel with Gentiles. Our story continues after that meeting.

Tell the story – Acts 15:36-41. This week’s story is about an issue between Paul and Barnabas from Acts 15. [Tell the story with your Bible open on your lap to the passage.]

Rebuild the story

[Group members tell the story together, one piece at a time, based on what they remember.]

Read the story out loud – Read Acts 15:36-41 from the Bible.

[The scripture may have more details. Were there any important details left out of the telling or retelling that you discover in the scripture?]

Discuss these questions:

1. What do you learn about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit in this story?
2. What do you learn about the characters in the story?
3. What stood out to you in this story?
4. Why do you think Barnabas wanted to redeem John Mark? How does this affect you?
5. How will this story be used in your life and with others?

Ask someone to retell the story.

Assign next week’s passage. Acts 16:1-15. Disciplemaking in New Areas.

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August 27, 2017- Controversy and Growth – Leader Coaching

[This page is to help you sharpen your skills as a DiscipleGroup Leader. Each week we will include concepts, challenges, and resources designed to assist you as you lead and shepherd your group and grow as a disciple yourself. Also, we have added comments (enclosed in brackets []) on the Leader Guide.]

Abiding

[grow as a disciple yourself]

- This week's story is about two men who had been partners in ministry for a long time and had a long history of encouraging one another. Think about people who have encouraged (discipled) you during your life. What did they do to make you a better disciple? How can what you learned from them help you improve your own discipling?

Leading

[learn to facilitate your group more effectively]

- This is another very short story. Push all your people to learn it. Perhaps you can say "Why don't we all learn this story and draw stories to see who will tell it!" Maybe even have the group divide into groups of two and each person share it with someone. Use the shorter stories to help everyone improve in their storytelling.

Shepherding

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

- As you go through this story be mindful of the faith history of your group. There may be someone in the group that had a "falling out" in the past with another believer. Encourage the group members to talk about how they can repair past relationships.

Resources:

- Acts 15 is the last place Barnabas is mentioned in the book of Acts. Use biblegateway.com to do a search on Barnabas. What do you learn about the relationship between Paul, Barnabas and Mark in further study?