

January 15, 2017 – 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 for you.]

Abiding

[grow as a disciple yourself]

- This is a very powerful story for your own personal growth as a believer. Learn the story well, particularly verses 27-30.
- Then spend some time praying and thinking about how you are secure in the Father.
- What confidence this should give us in our daily lives!

Leading

[learn to facilitate your group more effectively]

- This is one of the hardest “stories” to learn because it has so much monologue material from Jesus.
- You will need to learn it in sections and encourage the group to learn it that way.
- As you tell the story, imagine Jesus talking to people who are opposed to his teaching.
- These people want to kill Jesus! Visualize the people standing there with stones in their hands.
- Can you share that emotion in your telling?

Shepherding

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

- There is much theology in this story. Assurance will stress that we are eternally safe in Jesus. You may have people in your group from a faith background that doubts the security of the believer, such as Catholic or some Pentecostal group. Trust the scripture and encourage the group to trust it as well.

Resources:

- You can listen to an MP3 of this week’s story at -- <http://firstmoore.com/the-whole-story-resources>
- Have you got the free app, uDisciple? It contains all the stories that we are currently using in our DiscipleGroups as well as the mp3 files. Download the app so that you can access the stories at any time. (It is available in the Google Play Store and the iOS Appstore.)

January 15, 2017 – Assurance

Open in Prayer

Welcome/Introductions

[if there are new people in your group, give brief introductions of people they don't know]

Remind group of DiscipleGroup Guidelines

Ask a “hook question” to get the group talking

- When was there a time in your life when you really needed guidance? Who did you turn to?

Share background for the story

Read John chapter 9 and preparation for learning this story. The healing of a man born blind and the Pharisees' investigation into the healing provides the context for the encounter in chapter 10. As you understand the situation better, it should give you a good sense of the emotions felt by the opposition. The better you understand the context, the easier it is to understand and learn the story!

Tell the story – This week's story is **John 10:14-39** (Use the attached condensed story as your guide.)

[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 **John 10:14-39** from the Bible

[The Scripture passage will, obviously, have many 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 does the fact that Jesus says he gives his life voluntarily for his sheep mean to you?
2. Share how you feel about Jesus saying “No one can snatch them away from me” and “No one can take them from the Father's hand.”
3. Why did the Jews want to stone Jesus, and in what ways do you stone him today?
4. How does God want you to use this story in someone's life this week?

Ask someone to retell the story

Assign next week's passage -- Luke 18:15-17, 31-42 (“Sight”) (condensed story attached to next week's leader guide)

Close in Prayer

[Co-leader or apprentice say a closing prayer.]

Assurance

Transition (note the mp3 transition is different from that written in ST4T)

Many of the religious leaders did not approve of Jesus. They often tried to trap Jesus by asking him questions. One day when they were talking to Jesus he said to them...

John 10:14-18

"I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me. The Father loves me because I voluntarily die, I voluntarily give my life for my sheep. No one can take my life from me. I give it voluntarily. I can give it when I want to and also take it again."

John 10:22-24

Again Jesus was in Jerusalem at the time of an important religious festival. He was walking in their place of worship, teaching. The people surrounded him and asked, "How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Promised Savior, tell us."

John 10:25-27

Jesus said, "I have already told you, and you don't believe me. You don't believe me because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to me; I know them, and they follow me."

John 10:28-30

Then Jesus said "I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me, for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. No one can take them from the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

John 10:31-39

The people picked up stones to kill Jesus, saying. "You, a mere man, yet you claim to be God." Jesus answered, "why do you say I show disrespect to God when I say, 'I am the Son of God'? If I do my Father's work, believe in the evidence of the miraculous works I have done, even if you don't believe me." Once again they tried to arrest him, but he got away and left them.