
LEADERSHIP COACHING: BACK TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Discipleship Phrase: I can trust God.

Big Idea for Series: Discovering God's character & plan through the Minor Prophets.

Abiding [grow as a disciple yourself]

Take a moment to read John 15:1-8. In this passage, we see that Jesus is our Vine and God is our Vinedresser; what word describes us? How have you been doing lately as a Branch? What does it look like for you to abide in the Vine? A gardener's (vinedresser) job is to tend to his garden, pulling up weeds, planting seeds, watering and nurturing the garden for optimum growth. Do you know that God is always working on our "garden"? He does so as we abide in Christ. One thing that God does is prune us. His pruning allows us to grow fruit yet pruning can be hard and confusing. Search your heart and ask God where He is pruning (or confronting sin in your life) this season. Remember, abiding in Christ is our hope to grow more fruit (disciples).

Leading [learn to facilitate your group more effectively]

Every group deserves a great leader. Not just a good leader, a great leader. In Jesus, we can see true greatness by the way that He led others. If nothing else, Jesus is super intentional. Every word, every action, all having purpose. The greatest disciple maker ever (Jesus) yet still He had one turn away (Judas). We cannot control who chooses to be conformed or transformed. However, we can continue to stress that "you're going to get out of group, what you put into group".

Put your leadership to the test. Do you feel that every word and every action with your group (in & outside of group) has a purpose? What purpose is that? Is it helping others grow spiritually? Is there any evidence of "fruit" to support that? Good leaders tell others they can grow, but great leaders get them to believe they can grow.

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

As your small group meets this week, be very intentional in listening to their responses. The questions this week are designed to get your group focused on the fact that God's character must confront sin, however, it's with the purpose of restoring and rebuilding us. This potentially could open up some painful areas of their lives. Listen well, stay genuinely curious, and ask great follow up questions. Note: Before you begin, highlight the guideline of no fixing and rescuing because the temptation to do so may be higher this week as people share their brokenness. However, one thing we do recommend is always pointing them back to Jesus by reminding them of God's character and purpose.

Background Plus[®] [a deeper dive into the context of this week's story]

- The major theological theme of Numbers is God has brought a people to Himself by covenant.
 - The Law-related passages continue to emphasize the people's relationship with God.
 - The Bible Project - [Numbers](#)
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WEEK 9 - TOPIC: GOD CONFRONTS SIN

TAKEAWAY: GOD'S CHARACTER MUST CONFRONT EVIL, BUT HIS PURPOSES ARE ALWAYS TO RESTORE & REBUILD.

Open in Prayer

Welcome/Introductions [Share the topic & takeaway this week from above]

Review the Guidelines [Share the guidelines to set the rails for group time]

Review Last Week [A follow up to last week's takeaway]

How might have you learned to "love mercy" more this past week? [For accountability]

Ask A Hook Question [A thought-provoking question to get the group focused]

Share a time where you had an encounter with a snake.

Share Background for the Story [Provide context to the story from the Bible]

Throughout the wilderness wanderings of the Israelites, God was constantly teaching them things about Himself and about their own sinfulness. He brought them to the same mountain where He revealed Himself to Moses, so that He could instruct them in what He required of them. God brought them to the border of the Promised Land, but when the people heard the reports from the spies, their faith failed. In today's story, they got discouraged and murmured against Moses & God. They had forgotten their own sin that caused them to be there, and they tried to blame Moses for it. **Share the Story:** [Numbers 21:4-9](#) [Volunteer from last week shares the story]

Rebuild the Story [Invites everyone to engage]

Read from Scripture [Read out loud to see if anything was added or omitted]

Discussion Questions: [Dive deeper, beyond the surface]

1. What were the people of Israel guilty of and how did God confront those sins in the story?
2. The Israelites looked to the bronze serpent (a picture of Jesus), for restoration. How are you looking, or not looking, to Jesus for the same?
3. God's character must confront sin, but His purpose is always to rebuild and restore. In your own life, how has God confronted your sins, and how has that lead to you being restored and rebuilt?
4. God uses others to confront sin in our lives at times. Who have you shut down because they were calling out sin in your life? How will you address and restore that relationship this week?

Assign Next Week's Passage: [Luke 18:9-14](#)

Prayer Requests [Record, share & follow up throughout the week]

Closing Prayer [Ask openly for a volunteer]
