
LEADERSHIP COACHING: ENCOUNTER

Discipleship Phrase: God, what are you inviting me into? And what's my part?

Big Idea for Series: Start the year seeking God & discovering how He works in the lives of people.

Abiding [grow as a disciple yourself]

This week the focus is about tests, more specifically, the testing of our faith. As followers of Christ we know that times of testing will come, and it certainly seems as if our faith is always under fire. However, fire is used to refine and to purify. Think back on your own walk with Christ. How was your faith tested, how often, how intense? More importantly, how did that period of testing refine and purify your faith today? Go into group this week, viewing the curriculum through that lens as you lead.

Leading [learn to facilitate your group more effectively]

Group this week could be potentially challenging for some in a couple of different ways. For some, perhaps their periods of their faith being tested have been severe, intense or even traumatic. For others, they may yet still be walking through a season of testing today. As you lead, consider what you know to be true of your group members. Challenge them to really wrestle with the heart question (#3). Remember, there are two parts to this question. Dive into both.

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

As your group answers question 3 make certain that you, as a leader, are actively listening. Try and pick up on anything that you could use as an opportunity to help foster spiritual growth. For instance, if someone shares specifics about an area where they're being tested, how might you use that as a potential discipleship opportunity for others in your group to help. Or if you hear beliefs that are not aligned to scripture, it might be a chance for a one on one next week with that person to talk about it.

Background + [a deeper dive into this week's story]

- The events recorded in Acts cover a period of about 30 years: AD 33 - AD 62.
- Acts is the only New Testament book that continues the history begun in the Gospels.
- The message of Acts is that the church is God's instrument to glorify Himself.
- Luke recorded the conversions of three very different individuals in Philippi; Lydia, the slave-girl, and the jailer, in order to illustrate the appeal and power of the Gospel.
- The Bible Project - [Acts 1-12](#) [Acts 13 - 28](#)

*** DO NOT MISS the MetMen's Breakfast - Click [here](#) to register now!**

"Every group deserves a great group leader..."

WEEK 5 - TOPIC: OUR FAITH WILL ALWAYS BE TESTED.

TAKEAWAY: WHAT I BELIEVE ABOUT GOD MUST GUIDE MY STEPS.

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]

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

Growing up, how well did you do when being tested in school?

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

This week is an ironic biblical passage for sure which speaks of a fortune-telling girl, enslaved to demonic forces, who was following Paul & His men. All the while she is shouting that they were proclaiming the way of salvation. Exasperated by the pestering, Paul commands the demon to flee in the name of Jesus, which it then does immediately. This causes the girl's masters, who were profiting from her so-called fortune-telling, to become angry enough to seize Paul & Silas and bring them before the authorities. They then accuse them of teaching things that were against Roman customs.

Share the Story: [Acts 16:22-35](#) [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. How was Paul & Silas' faith being tested?
2. How did Paul & Silas' beliefs, about God, guide their steps? Who benefited from it in the story?
3. How is your own faith being tested right now, and what beliefs are guiding your steps?
4. The jailer and his entire household benefited from Paul & Silas' beliefs & their responses. How would your walk need to look in order to impact others in a similar way?

Assign Next Week's Story: [Luke 14:26-35](#)

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

Closing Prayer [Ask openly for a volunteer]