

Leadership Coaching: Even If.

Discipleship Phrase: It's God's Story!

Big Idea for Series: Wanting to help build an "Even If" resolve in our faith.

Abiding [grow as a disciple yourself]

The beginning of Jesus' ministry began with fasting and prayer. The Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness and He remained there for 40 days. The enemy was also there trying to tempt Him. Jesus' response is amazing. He quoted Scripture to the enemy. The Word of God is alive and active. How we handle temptation and trials will reveal where we are in our relationship with Jesus. Do you have a key verse that you repeat when trials come your way? Do you find yourself drawing closer to the Lord during these times? What can you do this week to ensure when a trial comes you will draw close to the Lord?

Leading [learn to facilitate your group more effectively]

One of the toughest spiritual acts of faith as a leader is to have the will and the guts to confess sin to another person. When we are weak in our walk with Jesus, we often tend to do what is natural rather than supernatural. We hide, suppress, and shift the focus away from our problems to maintain an image that we think everyone expects us. Sure, there will always be people who look to see you trip and fall, but God has birthed in His bride, the church, the men and women needed to lift you up. **Proverbs 28:13** tells us, "people who conceal their sin will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy." Leaders, mercy awaits you! Hidden struggles will never just go away, they must be properly released. It will take courage and accountability, but just know supernatural strength is available for you through Christ. **JAMES 5:16**

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

Shepherds, we have been given the special responsibility to watch over our group members like sheep in a fold. However, sometimes we may have men and women walking in and walking out each week living powerless lives. Its evident they are seeking because they are coming to your group each week, but something is not sticking. Often, the interference between their ultimate growth and living a power-filled life is a struggle or sin that that has endured too long unchecked. Do you know your sheep? Do they feel safe to share their struggles without judgement in your group or to you personally? Is it time to do a check-up? Ask the Lord for wisdom and power to walk into the fold and ask the tough questions that propel them to live a faith filled life!

BackgroundPLUS® [a deeper dive into this week's story]

- Matthew and Luke record the same temptations but in different order - both of them put the first temptation first, but Matthew has the devil leading Jesus' to the pinnacle of the Temple second and to a high mountain third, while Luke reverses the order. Both records are the inspired word of God. All three versions of the temptation of Jesus are strategically placed **after** His baptism and **before** He began His 3 years of mission.
- Luke placed Jesus' genealogy between His baptism and temptation story because this was the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. It is where Jesus is empowered by the Holy Spirit begins and is authenticated as the Son of God.
- **The Bible Project** - [Luke 1-9](#)

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

Week 5 - Topic: "Even If" faith is cultivated by God walking you through the trials of life.

Takeaway: Trials are necessary, suffering is common to man, and it builds our "even if" faith.

Open in Prayer

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

Review from last week [Build in [accountability](#) to living it out]

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](#)]

What are the 5 most important things you would take with you if you were lost in a wilderness?

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

In Luke 3, we see John the Baptist's preparation of Jesus' ministry. Along with others that day, Jesus was baptized. Luke emphasizes that after His baptism, while Jesus was praying, heaven opened, the Holy Spirit descended in the form of a dove, and a voice came out of heaven affirming, "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased." Jesus' baptism signifies that at the outset of His ministry, He identified Himself with the sinners He came to save. Luke emphasizes Jesus' prayer life, which shows His dependence as the Son of Man on the Heavenly Father.

Share the Story [Volunteer from last week shares the story]

Rebuild the Story [Invites everyone to engage]

Read from Scripture: [Luke 4:1-15](#) [Read out loud to see if anything was added or omitted]

Discussion Questions: [[Dive deeper](#), beyond the surface]

- 1) Who was with Jesus in the wilderness? (*Not only satan, but God was as well*)
- 2) Why were trials allowed into Jesus' life? How did Jesus specifically respond? (*Trials were there to illuminate Jesus reliance on God in these trials. He responded with scripture and truth from the Word*)
- 3) How should Jesus' response inform "Even If" faith in for lives? (*Even Jesus had to rely on God and be prepared by knowing His word when tempted.*)
- 4) What trials are you facing today where you need to invite God into?

Assign Next Week's Story:

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

Closing Prayer [Ask openly for a volunteer]