

Pre-Groupie Time

Remind people to pray and update the journal.
Give praise reports and updates.
Follow up with your group midweek.

Summary

If you've been following Christ for any length of time, you likely have some stories to tell of how God has interacted with you, intervened for you, or affected those around you. More specifically, you have a story about God showing you grace and mercy through salvation (even with tough love). This week we will share these stories with each other, pray for each other, and talk about who else needs to hear these testimonies.

Scripture

Hebrews 10:19-25 - Encourage and love one another.

1 Peter 4:8-11 - Use what you have to serve the Lord.

Romans 10:10-15 - Profess what you know and believe.

Discussion

Group Leaders: expect these questions and topics to take a while. Allow space for silence, reflection, and even celebration as people open up about their testimonies and experiences. The scripture references this week are meant to help people know why sharing their stories is important. Encourage people to read along as someone reads aloud.

Peter, Paul, and the author of Hebrews tell us that we are to share our gifts and stories as encouragement for each other and others. Sharing your personal testimony can make a huge impact in someone's life because the story is just that: personal.

- What was your life like before you knew Jesus?
- How did you come to know Jesus as your Lord and Savior?
- Since that time, how have you noticed God affecting your life, relationships, and behaviors?

- Do you miss anything from before you came to Christ?
- What advice would you give to a new believer as their journey begins?

Sometimes the biggest impact we experience comes from our interactions with other's as we share what Christ has done for us.

- Who was the last person you shared your faith-story with?
- Who will be the next person? When?

Part of "building a church we can bring our friends to" is inviting friends.

- Who are you going to invite to Branches or your home church? How?
- You should have a plan. Discuss with your group some ways you can invite friends and share your story.

Pre-Groupie Time

Read the scripture and discussion topics.
Pray for your meeting and group.
Be the first to smile!

Icebreaker

Share a funny vacation experience that you or your family has had.

Week 7

"God's Family Story"

Sandra Barrett

We Are Family