

story

January 21st, 2018

Leader Tip: *In the course of this curriculum your group will be learning to share God's story of rescue with each other. This is an incredibly rewarding practice that has eternal impact. However, many people will be uncomfortable sharing because it may be their first time, or not even have a story, but it is key that we as leaders help them see how easy it is and how valuable this practice is for our intimacy with God. Let each member know it is much easier to start a habit in a group of people you already are comfortable with. We have different resources for them to use to practice evangelism at the end.*

THE WIN

Group Members will become more confident about sharing God's story of Rescue with others in their sphere of influence.

1-2
minutes

SERMON RECAP: WHAT DID THE TEXT MEAN? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

In the sermon this week, we learned that God's story connects with our own story. This was done by Jesus rescuing us from our sin and shame. No solution of ours could solve our most longing problems.

- What were the different aspects of God's story so far?
- What implication does this story of rescue have for your life?
- What impact can this Story of rescue make on our sphere of influences?

3-5
minutes

WARM UP

Leader Tip: *In the following question, it may be helpful to stimulate member's memories by having them recall a moment they were rescued from a problem they couldn't solve. Once we get passionate about something we share it.*

Ask: What was a moment in your life you needed to be rescued from a problem?

30-35
minutes

THE TEXT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

Say This: The goal of this week is to allow group members to become more confident in sharing their story of being rescued. For people to share their story though, they must know The Story.

Read: Romans 1:16, Genesis 3:7-21

Ask This: Does anyone know what the word Gospel means? (Good news)

- What is the Gospel's good news about?
- What are different things in our life that we consider good news? Ex: Cowboys winning, learning you're pregnant, getting a promotion.
- How quick are we to share those things?
- How much more impactful and lasting is the good news of Jesus' rescue?

Leader Tip: We want our groups to become passionate about sharing God's Story of rescue. We only become great and passionate about something if we practice. Have one person practice by answering these questions.

Ask One Person: Who is God, What is sin, Who is Jesus, Why does this apply to me and you?

CELEBRATE: Someone just shared the gospel!! That wasn't too hard.

Say: Most of us freak out over sharing our story of rescue because we have never done it, or are afraid of bringing up an awkward topic and ruining a relationship. Sharing your faith is not some loaded gun you are holding at people, but a simple conversation that happens naturally for believers. Why? The Gospel of God's Rescue is your story! So, we are simply talking about ourselves. Don't we all love to do that!

Read: Acts 1:7-8, Mark 15:16

Ask This:

- Why do we fear sharing our story of rescue?
- What things in your life are a hindrance to living abandoned for the Gospel?

Say: The greatest way to connect sharing our story to everyday conversations is to connect people's changing story to God's unchanging Story.

Read: 1 Peter 3:15, Matthew 5:13-16

Ask This:

- Can you think of anyone in your life recently that you talked with that is going through struggle or hardship?
- Are they trying to hide their shame, or are they trying to fix the problem themselves to no avail?
 - You constantly have people in your lives looking for hope even when they do not realize it. Guess who has it?!
- How can we easily move from someone talking about a struggle in their life to the hope of the

gospel in our lives?

- Ex: Family struggling in marriage, or friend stressed out at work due to co-workers and deadlines. Offer first empathy, identify with them because you are genuinely seeking a friend not just a win for the books, and then ask questions like, do you think it should be that way? Or, Can I tell you what changed for us in our life?

3-5
minutes

DIGGING DEEPER

Leader Tip: This will push some people out of their comfort zone, but will yield eternal rewards. Be aware some people may not actually have a Gospel Story of Rescue, so be ready for a potential rescue story to occur in your group!

Ask This: Have you ever received the Rescue Jesus provides us? If so, then let's share it.

Do This: Have each group member share their story of God's rescue with another group member.

This simply involves group members sharing who God is, their life before they believed in Christ (Sin), how Christ stepped in and rescued them, and what their life looks like now with Christ.

CLOSING THOUGHT

- **Leader Tip: Challenge your group this next week to find one person in their sphere of influence to share their story with. Through everyday conversations we can share the grace of God and glorify our Perfect Savior. Do not be afraid, but be excited to be able to share your life story with other people.**

3-5
minutes

STUDY

For further resources on sharing your faith here are multiple resources groups can use to practice.

Free Downloadable Apps to have on your phone:

The Story Conversation Guide, by *SpreadTruthMinistries Inc.*

Life on Mission: 3 Circles Life Conversation Guide, by *North American Mission Board*