



LIFE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

DON'T WORRY, JUST SAY IT

WEEK 1: SHARING YOUR FAITH STORY

Lent is a 40-day (not counting Sundays) timeframe leading up to Easter. It's a time for self-reflection, confession, prayer, and rooting ourselves in the good news of Jesus Christ. Some people choose to give up something and give towards a charitable cause as a symbol of the sacrifice Jesus made on their behalf. Those are great ideas. However, the best things we could give are our words as we share the good news of Jesus with others.

- 1) How do you view Lent? How do you prepare yourself for Easter?
- 2) When was the last time you talked to someone about church, faith, religion, Jesus, God? How did that go?

Watch "5 Tips to Sharing Your Faith" video (hopechapelsterling.org)

- 3) Read Acts 22:1-21
- 4) Paul describes his life before Christ, the moment he met Jesus, his response to the message of Jesus, and how his life was changed because of Christ. How would you describe your life before hearing about Jesus?
- 5) When was the first time you heard about Jesus? Who told you? Where were you?
- 6) What's one thing that's completely changed because of Christ in your life? Or where are you at in your story with God?

Spend some time in prayer. Pray for each other to write out their faith story this week and then the boldness to share it with others.

WEEK 2: GOD'S PERFECTION AND PLAN

Over the next few weeks, we will go deeper into God's Story. Last week, we worked through our own stories as we thought through how God has worked in our lives. As we share our experiences with others, we need to be equipped on how to share the Good News of Jesus, God's Story. God's Story is woven throughout the Bible and throughout time. At its basics are 1. God's Perfection and Plan, 2. Our Problem, 3. God's Remedy, and 4. Our Response.

- 1) How did it go with writing out your faith story?
- 2) What Gospel sharing tools have you ever used or heard about? Romans Road, 1 Verse Evangelism, Wordless Book, The Cross is a Bridge?

Watch "God's Perfection and Plan" video (hopechapelsterling.org)

- 3) What imagery, statue, or symbol do people (Christianity and other religions) use to describe God? Egg, Cross, Triangle, Buddha, Hindu.
- 4) When you think of God, how would you describe Him? What are His attributes, characteristics?
- 5) Which attribute of God challenges you the most? His justice? His sovereignty? His love?

Spend some time in prayer. Praise Him as you reflect on His perfect attributes.

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WEEK 3: OUR PROBLEM WITH SIN

Last week was about the greatness and perfection of God. Our prayer is that you were overwhelmed by the goodness, love, and righteousness of God. Of course, when we look at our lives and hear the news around the world, we can question where such a God is. We can ponder where things went wrong. We can make excuses and hypothesize. But what does the Bible say about the problem? The Bible is God's word to us. He was there when things went bad. He shares with us what really happened and what is happening now. The facts don't look too good. We need to understand how bad things really are so we can understand why Jesus is such good news.

- 1) Try drawing a perfect circle freehand. If you draw it small, you may be better at it; but since God is big, try drawing a bigger circle. How did your circle look?
- 2) Share a time you failed a test. Driver's license? College course? Work promotion?

Watch "Our Problem" video (hopechapelsterling.org)

- 3) How do you explain all the evil in this world? Why do bad things happen to good people?
- 4) Why is it hard to talk about sin or even confess our own sin with one another?
- 5) Do you think there are some sins bigger than others? If so, which ones? If not, why?

Spend some time in prayer. Pray silently for 3 full minutes confessing your sins to God (go longer if you have bigger sinners in the group, just kidding 😊) and ask God to reveal sin in your life that has gone unnoticed. Close by praying for the opportunity to share the good news with others this week.

WEEK 4: GOD'S REMEDY

Talking about sin and judgment is not a topic we want to stay in for very long. It's really discouraging. But hopefully, it gave us insights into the troubles of this world. We live as broken people in a broken world with other broken people. But there is massive hope. God doesn't leave us in our despair. He provides a way out. It involved a sacrifice. And Jesus became the perfect sacrifice because He is God. God took our place. He died on the cross for the forgiveness of sins. He rose again 3 days later showing His power and victory over death. And He ascended into heaven where He is advocating on the behalf of those who accept His gift of salvation. It's the greatest love story of all time.

- 1) What ways do you or others try to cover up their wrong-doings?
- 2) What was the greatest gift you've ever received or given?

Watch "God's Remedy" video (hopechapelsterling.org)

- 3) Read Genesis 3:21. What is God saying about Himself and about the covering of sins? – He will provide a covering for sins, a sacrifice of blood is needed.
- 4) Read Genesis 22:1-14. What is God saying about Himself and about the covering of sins? – He will provide a substitute. Faith is needed.
- 5) Read Hebrews 9:12. What is special about Jesus' blood and sacrifice?

Spend some time in prayer rejoicing over the goodness of God to cover our sins and to provide Himself as the perfect sacrifice once and for all.

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WEEK 5: OUR RESPONSE

“For God so loved the world that He gave His One and Only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). God paid the price and provided the forgiveness of sins by His loving grace. However, this is not an automatic and open-door entrance into heaven. Our response is needed to show we’ve accepted and received such a gift. We accept such a gift by admitting we have sinned, believing that Jesus is God’s Son who died on the cross for our sins, and confessing our trust in Him for salvation. We must accept His gift by faith. Many reject His gift and they will not receive everlasting life with God. But for those who do believe, their lives are changed. They are sealed with the Holy Spirit. They are producing good works. Nothing can separate them from God’s love.

- 1) Share a time when something was stuck together, and you couldn’t pull it apart? Tongue on metal frozen pole, superglue,
- 2) Share a time when you shared the good news of Jesus or invited someone to church. What was their reaction?

Watch “Our Response” video (hopechapelsterling.org)

- 3) Read Ephesians 2:8-9. Why is salvation by grace through faith and not works?
- 4) Read James 2:14-18. Why does James say works are important?
- 5) Read Philippians 1:6. How does this verse give us hope?

Spend some time in prayer thanking God for His mercy, grace, and work in you. Ask God to help you live out your life in a manner worthy of His love and forgiveness. Pray for those who have not yet heard the Good News or have heard but not yet received.