

STORY GROUP WEEK 3: FACILITATOR GUIDE

PART 1: IDENTIFYING YOUR CONTEXT:

- **PLAY VIDEO:**

(Before discussion, ask if people in the group would be willing to look up the following verses.)

- **READ:** Matthew 5:14-16. *Picture Jesus looking right at you when you read this.*

- **READ:** John 1:5, Psalm 27:1, 1 Peter 2:9, Ephesians 5:14

- **GROUP DISCUSSION:**

- How does it feel to know that YOU are the light in a dark world?
- Where do we draw our confidence from as storytellers? Who empowers us?
- How does telling your story shine light in a dark world?

- **LIST EXERCISE:** Facilitator to pass out pieces of paper and a pen to each person (They can also use a smartphone!)

- Put on some worship music. Plan for about 5 minutes or one song.
- While the song plays, write out a list of the people who are far from God or don't have a relationship with Jesus in your context.
- When the song is finished, pray over the list and listen for who the Holy Spirit might ask you to engage this week. *(Allow 3 minutes for this part. Start the listening time with a group prayer. You can play another song or just keep it silent.)*
- Circle 5 names on your list that the Holy Spirit brings to mind.

PART 2: WHAT NEXT?

- **PLAY VIDEO**

- **GROUP DISCUSSION:**

- When can you schedule a time to engage these 5 people? Share with the group.
- Remember to pray for each person by name until you see them. How will you make sure to be reminded to pray for them?
- Would you consider yourself someone who prefers deep conversation over small talk? Vice versa?
- How will "starting a real conversation" with each of the 5 people challenge you?
- Do you already know the hopes and/or hurts of the people on your list? How did you find those out?

- **Review these tips as a group:**

- **Don't be afraid of awkward moments.** *It's ok to say, "I hope this is ok to ask, but what is your spiritual background?"*

- Remember that **people like to talk about themselves**...including their spirituality. When you listen, you gain people's trust.
- **Be brave** to lead the conversation as the Holy Spirit leads you. He's already been working in this person's life!
- Remember that it's ok to invite someone to church, **but that is NOT the same thing as sharing the gospel or your story**. Some people are ready for an invite, and others might be closed to it.
- **It's ok to not know the answer to a question**. It's ok to say, "I'm still learning too, but I can find out and get back to you."

PART 3: IDENTIFYING THE MOMENT

- **PLAY VIDEO**
- **READ:** Romans 10:9-10
 - How does a person get "saved" according to this verse? If you had to tell someone in one sentence how to start a relationship with Jesus based on this verse, what would you say?
 - *You'll notice there aren't any "conditions" to starting a relationship with Jesus. You don't have to have it all figured out or fixed at the beginning. Being a Christian is a lifelong journey!*
 - Leading someone to Jesus is simple, but requires bravery. What risks do you take when you ask someone if they want to know Jesus?
 - Is someone's salvation worth the risks you just talked about? What risk do you take if you're too scared to offer Jesus to someone?
 - Describe a time you knew God was telling you to do something in the moment. Did you respond to Him?
- **PRAY:**
 - As a group, discuss if there are any specific prayers they have in regards to their list of names. Some might have broken relationships on the list, some might need courage because there is already a foundation to share their story with a certain person, and some might need courage to step out on a limb and engage someone for the first time. Pray for courage & open doors.