

BLOODLINES: Week 1 – A New Bloodline

Open in Prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Cast Vision

Remind the Grow Group of the ground rules

Share context of the story *[Provide context by sharing the information below.]*

Ephesians 2:1-10 deals with the reconciliation that God has brought between Himself and fallen man through Jesus. It is by His grace that we are saved through faith. It is not based on our good works. Ephesians 2:11-22 explores the reconciliation that God has accomplished between Jews and Gentiles. As His disciples, we are to pursue that same unity with others.

Tell the story – Ephesians 2:11-22 *[Have someone tell the story.]*

Rebuild the story *[Group members tell the story together based on what they remember.]*

Read the story out loud *[Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted.]*

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage? *[God loves us with an everlasting love; disunity among His own people has always been a special heartache to God; God desires unity for His children (John 17); God unites believers by the blood of their common Savior, Jesus Christ; by removing our sin, Jesus gives us peace with each other and access to God; God loves and values all people equally (believers and non-believers); etc.]*
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage? *[I have a tendency to forget where I came from (or what God delivered me from); I allow selfishness to create discord between me and those around me; I devalue the cross when I choose not to live at peace with those around me; I damage my testimony to others when they see me not being a peacemaker; I tend to ignore or mistreat people who are different than me; I am forgiven by God and am called to forgive others; etc.]*
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. In light of what you've learned today, what do you need to do to obey God?

Other Questions specific to this passage:

1. What steps can the church take to improve relationships among its own ranks? It has been said that church is the only army that shoots its own wounded. What do you say?
2. Is there someone that you have been at odds with for a long period of time?

Assign Next week's passage – Luke 4:16-30 *[Ask someone to tell the story next week.]*

Close in Prayer

BLOODLINES: Week 1 – Leadership Coaching

The purpose of this page is to help you sharpen your skills as a Grow Group leader. Each week, we will include concepts, challenges, and resources designed to assist you as you lead and shepherd your Grow Group and grow as a disciple yourself.

Leading *[learn to facilitate your group more effectively]*

Men's Grow Groups are a great place for men to realize that God did not intend for them to do life alone. Men can be guarded and reluctant to let others in, but inside of a Men's Grow Group, guys are able to be transparent. They start to truly appreciate the great value of developing strong relationships with other godly men.

Our groups are designed to form relationships that extend past group time and provide meaningful support as we walk through the struggles of life. This can be especially challenging for men. As a leader, encourage your members to connect with each other outside of group time. Resist being the go-between for communication. Make sure that everyone has each other's contact information. Encourage your Grow Group members to spend time with each other throughout the week.

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

If your group is looking to grow, check out these ideas:

- Encourage everyone to invite someone to your next meeting. Suggest they reach out to a neighbor or co-worker.
- Volunteer at the Next Step display on Sunday mornings to talk with prospective group members.
- Go to worship a few minutes early and chat with those around you. Invite them to your Grow Group.

Developing *[grow as a disciple yourself]*

How do you respond when God asks you for the impossible? Often times, we think that God does not understand our circumstances. Read Genesis 22:1-14. Abraham faced the seemingly impossible choice of trusting in God's promise for countless descendants, through his son Isaac, and being obedient to God's command to sacrifice His only son. Abraham chose to obey God in faith. God would provide for what He had promised. When God provided a substitute sacrifice, Abraham declared Jehovah Jireh, "God provides." The name Jehovah Jireh declares that God sees our need and provides what is needed to live in obedience to Him.