

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY

LENT 2021 LEADER GUIDE

WEEK 1: WILD BUNCH

02.21.2021

SESSION GOALS

This session's discussions and prayer will equip participants to:

- Reflect on Jesus' "re-framing" of passover, the Jewish ideas of covenant.
- Compare and contrast Jesus' ideas on servant leadership vs. "lording over."

SCRIPTURE: Luke 22:14-32

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Jesus died in the most shameful way possible during Luke's time. The community is struggling to make sense of how the Son of God can go through such a shameful way to deliver glorious salvation for God's people. Luke portrays Jesus as a prophet and a philosopher, who is a legitimate Savior that deserves respect, even though he died in the most embarrassing way.

Right before Jesus goes through horrifying death, Jesus gathers his disciples for a passover meal. While Luke and Paul (see 1 Corinthians 11:17-34) agrees that Jesus offered the cup of wine as "the new covenant in my blood" (see verse 20), Mark and Matthew omits the "newness" of the covenant. In similar ways, Luke and Paul agrees that Jesus offered the bread and wine "given for you," Matthew and Mark omits this detail. Luke and Paul had a clear idea that Jesus is "re-framing" the Jewish tradition, whereas Matthew and Mark saw Jesus as a revitalizing agent of Judaism. In either case, Jesus stands as a revolutionary Savior of God, who showed us the way to be saved in all aspects of our lives.

SUGGESTED LEADER PREPARATION

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your preparation, and your class as you present this guide to your participants.
2. Carefully read the scripture and take note of what stands out to you.
3. With the insight you have gained during the scripture reading, go through the leader guide to add/modify/eliminate any discussion questions or activities according to the needs of the participants.

LESSON PLAN¹

ENGAGE

ASK: Why do you think Lent, for so many Christians, has come to be associated with giving something up rather than with taking up something new?²

EXPLORE

SAY: Jews celebrate the Passover dinner to celebrate the emancipation from Egyptians and God's miraculous working that made the freedom possible. In Passover dinners, Jews are once again reminded of their identity formed by God's special love for them, and God's covenant for Israelites. Jesus' new covenant is an identity changer, a revolutionary re-framing of traditional hope for God's covenant on Israelites.

ASK: By establishing the new covenant, how is Jesus re-framing their identity?

ASK: What is Jesus asking the disciples to give up and take up as he re-frames the covenant as "the new covenant?"

¹The lesson guide is inspired by the EXCEL model of Flippen Group.

²Susan Robb, "Seven Words Leader Guide," p. 14.

COMMUNE WITH THE WORD

ACTIVITY: In the participant's guide, you will see a T- chart. On one side, there is "to give-up." On the other side, there is "to take up."

- **ASK:** As a disciple of Jesus, what are you called to give up or take up with the new identity in Jesus' new covenant?
- Offer a few minutes for participants to reflect and fill out the chart.
- Ask participants to share if they feel comfortable.

SAY: Even with their newly declared identities, disciples are still fighting in the middle of their holiday gathering, arguing over who is the greatest. Not only does Jesus re-frame the disciples' identity and the way they relate to God, but also how they will serve and practice their leadership. Let's read verses 24-30.

ASK: How is Jesus re-framing leadership in verse 25? How is Jesus comparing and contrasting "the servant leadership" versus "lording over?" (verse 25)

ASK: Have we ever fought over who is the greatest with our family members, co-workers, or friends? How are we called to re-frame our leadership to reflect the one that looks like Jesus?

EMPOWER

SAY: Just few moments ago, we have identified what we are called to give up and what to take up to be faithful to God's calling in our lives. How are you committing your life to adjust so that you can give up and/or take up the things you have listed in the chart? Where is the time and space that will happen? How will you hold yourself accountable?

CHURCH-WIDE MISSION: SHARING SHOES & JOY IN PERU

Imagine a world where you had to go outside your house or down the street to use the bathroom...in a pit, or where you didn't have the ability to take a shower. For many families in Peru, this world isn't imagination – it's reality. But my seventh

trip to Peru to deliver backpacks filled with Christmas gifts to children,* also marked the first year we would help families complete construction of their very own bathrooms. After the work was done, we gathered with the families and shared a meal they had cooked for us. The food was good, but the meal was about more than satisfying physical hunger. It was about a community celebrating God's blessing, showing gratitude, sharing hospitality, and spending time away from work to focus on relationships; it was a time of communion.

- Lanie Williams, Mission Coordinator

* Over 450 of the backpacks we delivered were filled by Custer Road families.



One of our Peruvian neighbors sharing juice, hospitality and gratitude in her home.

Join us in serving families in Peru by donating new shoes and socks, volunteering to sort and prepare shoes for delivery, or donate to help build more bathrooms.

LAUNCH

God, open our eyes to see your re-framing work in us. Motivate us to give up our lives, and strengthen us to respond to your calling so that we may take up the cross and walk in solidarity with you.

Amen.