

Apprentice Group Meeting Guide – Sharing Our Story (Step 12)

“Are we all ready?” - *If you haven't yet read through this guide, take a look now.*

“How are we all doing?” - *High, Low & Buffalo*

“Shall we dive in?” – *Read 2 Cor. 3:17-18 out loud. Take a few seconds, then read it again.*

“Let's take a moment.” (Silence) – *Take a few minutes to “tune” your heart towards Jesus.*

“How are we all doing with The Plan?” – *Each person gives an update on The Plan from step 9.*

- *Where are you at in making amends? Is there anything you should have done but haven't done yet? What is your next step? What do you need from the group ?*

“Who would like to go first?”- *Share one at a time – Set a timer if you'd like.*

1. This week is our last week in this series! How does it feel being at the end?
2. What was your 'high' point in the last 12 weeks? What was your 'low'?
3. The first part of step 12 is knowing the story of what God has done. Consider your journey and write a 10 second story. You can use these sentences or write your own:
 - *When we started this series, I was _____.*
 - *I thought my biggest problem was _____ and it turns out that I was (right / wrong): my biggest problem was _____.*
 - *I saw how my _____ was impacting _____.*
 - *Over these 12 weeks, I hoped that God would _____. Now that we are at the end, I can say that God _____.*
 - *I'm still on a journey, but one way I have grown or changed is _____.*
 - *I am thankful that _____.*

For Example:

When we started this series, I was nervous about sharing something I had never told anyone. I thought my biggest problem was losing my temper and it turns out I was wrong – my biggest problem was my need for control. I saw how my angry words were impacting my relationship with my spouse and my friendships at work. Over these 12 weeks, I hoped that God would take away my anger. Now that we are at the end, I can say that God didn't take away my anger, but He taught me how to trust Him more. I'm still on a journey, but one way I have grown or changed is I am less upset when there's a change of plans. I am thankful that I have a group who know me very well and that God is beginning to change my attitude.

4. The second part of step 12 is sharing what God has done for you with other people. 'Sharing' can mean 'telling someone about it' or 'offering the same thing to them.' 'Sharing' doesn't mean you are perfect; it means that you invite others to experience the same freedom and healing as you. Since "you cannot keep what you do not give,"¹ how will you share your freedom with others?
- I will casually share my 10 second story. *For example, if someone asks, "How have things been?" you could say, "It's been a tough, but good season! We've been doing this thing at church where I've realized how many of my decisions are selfish, and it's been cool to see how God has started to change me. How have you been?"*
 - I will connect with _____ to encourage them and see how they're doing.
 - I will invite _____ to join me at (Alpha / Freedom Session / a life group / etc).
 - Another idea I have is to (help with / give to / volunteer at / etc.) _____.
5. What is something specific you appreciated about your group?

"Thanks for sharing _____. Can I pray for you?"

"Alright, who's next?" (Everyone Takes a Turn Sharing and Being Prayed For)

"So what happens to our group now?" (Group Discussion) – Have each person share.

I'm done (at least for now) - *"This was great, but I am not going to continue."*

This is totally fine! Give each other grace. Bless each other as you celebrate the past 12 weeks.

I loved it and want to go deeper - *"This was great, and I want to do more!"*

Consider joining Freedom Session in January if you want to go through the 12 steps in more detail.

Register at <https://www.nlcc.ca/courses/freedom-session>

I loved it, but want a change - *"I want to keep meeting as this group but talk about different stuff."*

This is great too! If everyone is on the same page, take a few minutes to figure out:

- Who would get the ball rolling to meet in January? When would we start up?
- When / where / how often / how long would we meet? What would we discuss?²

"This has been great! How do you want to celebrate?" Do something to mark the occasion!

These past weeks have not been easy, but they have been good. Celebrate what God has done!

"Thanks everyone! See you at the celebration!" (Confirm Your Celebration & Wrap it Up)

¹ Steps by John Ortberg, page 263

² We make weekly study guides based on the sermon that are designed for small groups. You can get them at <https://www.nlcc.ca/collections/sermon-study-guides>