

# MISSIO DEI “HOW TO” GUIDE

This guide gives notes and best practices for each section found in The Mission of God resource. Since Missio Dei is unique compared to past Woodside Life Group resources, we encourage you to familiarize yourself with the content in this guide and to not skip over the introduction found in week one. Pay particularly close attention to the section of this guide titled Telling the Story, as this is the most important part of the study.

## OPENING UP

Don't skip this part of the guide and jump straight into the Story. As you get to know one another you're building relationship and creating an environment where you and your group are comfortable and willing to share as you dive deeper into the things of God.

## RECAP

Unless it's your first session, have one member of your group briefly recap the story (or stories) you covered in your previous meeting. Try not to move ahead until everyone is up to speed. This will help clear up any misconceptions or forgotten parts.

*Note: There is often not enough time to do the full retelling of the previous stories so hit the main points and check for understanding instead of retelling all of the content.*

## TELLING THE STORY

### *The Storyteller*

We suggest that a Life Group leader share the story during the first week of the study. After that, encourage different group members to take turns telling the story each week. In most groups, because there are only 6 stories, not everyone will get the chance to be the storyteller. It's recommended that leaders handpick the individuals who story-tell based on their leadership ability and spiritual maturity.

### *The Story Telling*

**Prepare:** Read the story several times until it feels natural. Know the characters and tell the story accurately. Do not just read it.

**Stick to the Story:** Follow the written narrative exactly. Don't skip, add, or embellish. Keep it short, clear, and let pauses give space to reflect.

**Tell It Straight Through:** Share the story from start to finish without stopping to explain or add commentary.

**Be Real and Natural:** Create a relaxed, natural environment. Be expressive but genuine. Avoid sarcasm or humor that changes the story's meaning.

**Use Your Voice Well:** Vary pace, tone, and volume. Let emotion match the moment. Keep it alive, not monotone.

**Relax and Enjoy It:** Don't overthink it. Trust the process, it may feel simple, but it's deeply powerful over time.

**Practice:** Rehearse before Life Group. Consider rehearsing before friends or family and asking for honest feedback. The more you practice, the better you'll get.

**Know the Whole Story:** Read through all the narratives in advance so you can see how they connect and lead participants deeper.

### **RETELL THE NEW NARRATIVE**

Retell the story as a group, asking everyone to participate in the retelling. Say, "Let's see if we can retell the events of this story in the order they happened." You'll need to help a little (or a lot) at first, but over time your group will get better at this part. This retelling builds clarity and helps with retention.

### **DISCUSSION**

Discussion is critical in drawing out key ideas and truths from the Story. Use clarifying questions to keep discussion going, always directing your group back to the narrative for answers and insights. Guide listeners to discover truth and insight from the Story.

### **ENGAGING IN THE MISSION OF GOD**

Spend time at the end of each session discussing ways you can engage in God's mission, both individually and as a Life Group. Under this section you'll find two suggested next steps of action and a prompt for your group to come up with their own idea. The next step for each of your group members will vary depending on where they are on their faith journey. Encourage everyone to take action and to push themselves outside of their comfort zone because that's where growth happens!