

Rebel Freshman Teaching Tips

Rebel Freshman Teacher Guide

Leading a Rebel Study? Some potential helps...

An Overview of the Curriculum

There are four small group sessions. Each session is from Luke's two part volume: Luke-Acts. They focus on the nature of our rebellion against God and the meaning of Jesus' ministry, death, and resurrection. The last session develops a picture of the new rebellion that has been created in the wake of the resurrection: the communal life of repentance in the church.

Your group begins in Luke 15 as they consider the story of the "prodigal son." Jesus reveals how our rebellion against God has two forms: defiance or self-righteous religion. The parable reveals how God rejoices when sinners repent. Jesus holds up the mirror of this parable for us to realize our lostness and return to God through repentance. He doesn't want us to miss out on the party like the elder brother.

Session 2 connects God's rejoicing over repentant sinners with the third Son who told the prodigal son story, Jesus. God sent his Son to seek and to save lost humanity (Luke 19:10). Jesus is able to save sinners because he died in their place, as Isaiah 53 predicted. Jesus came to die for rebels.

Session 3 begins with the resurrection of Jesus from the grave. This momentous reality means good news for rebels across the world. The good news is that repentant sinners can find forgiveness for their sins in Jesus. There is an urgent call to repentance because Jesus is God's appointed Judge who will return (Acts 17:30-31). The party of the Father's embrace is open to any and all who repent and trust in Jesus.

Session 4 concludes the study. In this study, your group will get a glimpse of the life of repentance after the resurrection. Jesus instigated a new rebellion by his resurrection. These rebels would no longer conform to the crooked generation in which they lived but would repent and form a new community. The church is formed in the wake of the resurrection as sinners repent of their sins, believe in Jesus, and are baptized in Jesus' name. Will your group join the rebellion?

Definition of Rebellion

We have used rebellion in two ways in this curriculum. One rebellion is the norm. It is the patterns and habits of this crooked generation of which we are a part. People everywhere conform to one of the two paths of rebellion in Luke 15. Jesus came to die for these rebels.

The other way we use rebellion is to explain non-conformity. Jesus was a rebel in this sense. He refused the fallen patterns of life of society around him. His faithful allegiance to God marked him off from everyone else around him. He calls a people to follow in his way of life. In this way, a new rebellion has formed because of his death and resurrection. This new rebellion manifests itself in a community of people who refuse to live to please the crowd but who live for Jesus. Their lives are out of step with the world around them. They conform their lives to Jesus, not to the crowd.

Tips for Leading the Discussions

These studies are intended to be **45 minutes to 1 hour**. This means that you will have to teach some and dialogue over the main points.

Tips for Dialogue: Ask good questions and don't assume anything!

- Ask good questions, not every question. The key is to get them to interact with the key elements of that particular study. Have them discuss the central concepts, not the periphery ones.

- Don't assume your language communicates what you mean to them. Don't assume they are familiar with the Bible.
- Balance moving slowly and finishing the study between 45 minutes to 1 hour. Less is more, but you don't want to go too fast to leave the group behind.
- Every question from your group doesn't need to be answered. Balance deflecting questions, answering questions, and moving questions to the end of the study if the answer will derail the conversation. Some questions are not good for the progress of the group.

Q. Should you pray to open and close your study? We would encourage you to pray with your co-leader before and after the study, but prayer could put your group on the defensive even before your group considers the gospel. We want to remove any potential stumbling blocks, so we would encourage you to consider limiting your right to pray if it could potentially put an unneeded stumbling block in the way of a person hearing the gospel.

The Importance of fun and community: The benefit of a study like this is that it is longer than just a one-time, casual interaction. We highly encourage you to seek opportunities to build friendships outside your study with your group. Trips to Krispy Kreme, going out to eat, etc. might be some ways to do this. A freshman is establishing their network of friends and if you can be in their circle of friends, it will help your evangelistic efforts.

Reading the Bible in your groups: It would probably be best if the leaders read the Bible for clarity and the comfort of the participants.