

# Small Group Discussion Guide for Blake Whiteman's Story

## *Objective:*

*This guide is designed to help your small group explore Blake Whiteman's testimony through the lens of two key Essentials: **Abide in Christ** and **Shepherd Toward Spiritual Maturity**. Using the **Head, Heart, and Hands** model, as well as the **5 Spheres**, this discussion will foster a deeper understanding of spiritual growth and abiding in God.*

## **Opening Prayer:**

Begin by asking someone to lead the group in prayer, focusing on asking God for insight into how to deepen their relationship with Him and grow spiritually.

## **[Watch the Video:](#)**

Watch Blake Whiteman's testimony together, encouraging group members to take notes on what stands out to them in relation to abiding in Christ and spiritual maturity.

## Discussion Questions:

### **Head (Understanding and Knowledge)**

#### **Abide in Christ ([John 15:4-6](#) | Abide Sphere):**

Blake's testimony begins with a journey of questioning who God is and learning how to abide in a personal relationship with Him.

- Blake prayed persistently, asking God, "Who are You, and who am I?" How does this type of prayer reflect what it means to abide in Christ daily? How can we grow in our own practices of abiding in Him?
- What daily practices help you stay connected to God and abide in Him? How do you feel these practices impact other areas of your life, such as your family or workplace (Home and World spheres)?

#### **Shepherd Toward Spiritual Maturity ([Colossians 1:28](#) | Church Sphere):**

Blake's growth in faith was shaped by key relationships that intentionally guided him through his spiritual journey.

- How did Blake's relationship with his in-laws and mentors help him grow in spiritual maturity? Who in your church community has helped shepherd you toward spiritual growth?
- Reflecting on the Church Sphere, how important is it for us to remain connected to a church community for our spiritual growth? How can our small group foster an environment where everyone feels supported in their journey toward maturity?

## **Heart (Personal Transformation and Growth)**

### **Abide in Christ ([Ephesians 3:16-17](#) | **Spiritual Realm Sphere**):**

Blake shared about a turning point when he realized that success and achievement couldn't fill the void in his life. His ultimate transformation came through abiding in Christ and allowing God to change his heart.

- How does Blake's story of personal surrender inspire you to trust God more deeply in your own struggles or desires?
- In the **Spiritual Realm Sphere**, we often face internal battles. What spiritual battles are you currently facing that require you to trust in God more fully? How can the group support you in prayer?

### **Shepherd Toward Spiritual Maturity ([1 Peter 5:2-3](#) | **Home Sphere**):**

Blake's in-laws played a key role in shepherding him toward maturity. As he grew, he also started guiding others, including his own family, toward spiritual growth.

- How has your family (or those closest to you) shaped your spiritual journey? Reflecting on the **Home Sphere**, how can you take intentional steps to model Christ's love in your home?
- Is there someone in your family or household you feel called to guide toward spiritual maturity? How can you begin or continue shepherding them in their walk with Christ?

## **Hands (Action and Application)**

### **Abide in Christ ([Philippians 4:6-7](#) | **Abide Sphere**):**

Blake's personal transformation was a direct result of learning to rely on God daily through prayer and surrender.

- What daily habits or actions can you incorporate into your life to abide in Christ more consistently (e.g., Bible study, prayer, reflection)?
- Are there distractions in your life that are keeping you from abiding in Christ? How can you minimize those distractions this week?

### **Shepherd Toward Spiritual Maturity ([2 Timothy 2:2](#) | **Abide & Church Sphere**):**

Blake didn't stop at personal growth—he began to disciple others, including those within his church and community, as he matured spiritually.

- Who in your life might benefit from your guidance or mentorship in their spiritual journey? How can you take the first step in shepherding them toward maturity this week?
- Reflecting on both the **Abide** and **Church Spheres**, how can we as a small group commit to holding one another accountable in our personal growth and helping each other mature spiritually?

## **Practical Application:**

### **Abide in Christ:**

Blake's life shows the power of daily surrender and dependence on God. Challenge the group to commit to a daily practice of abiding in Christ, whether through prayer, reading scripture, or quiet reflection.

- What is one new habit or spiritual practice you can commit to this week to deepen your relationship with God?

**Shepherd Toward Spiritual Maturity:**

Just as Blake was discipled by key mentors, we are called to guide others toward spiritual maturity.

- Identify one person in your life you can mentor or invest in spiritually. Reach out to them this week to offer encouragement or guidance.
- How can our small group be intentional about fostering an environment of growth and accountability?

**Closing Prayer:**

Invite someone to close the group in prayer, asking for God's help in abiding more deeply in Christ and for the strength to shepherd others toward spiritual maturity.