



## TEACH IT TALK SESSION 7

This talk guide is just that: a guide. It's not intended to be a manuscript to read aloud. It's here to give you ideas, structure, and stories to blend with your personal study (Prep It) as you prepare your talk.

The content complements the other Teach It guides, allowing you to give a talk on the same topic students are studying in other settings (such as small groups) without too much overlap.

### 1. Materials (Optional)

- Movie Clip: scene from the movie *Hoosiers* in which Coach Norman Dale (Gene Hackman) gives a speech to his team at the Indiana regional finals: Chapter 25, "The Best you Can Be"—DVD counter cues, 1:15:45 to 1:17:20
- Demotivational Talk: Collect a few of your favorite "demotivator" sayings from [www.despair.com/viewall.html](http://www.despair.com/viewall.html) to read to your students. Caution: You'll be tempted to spend the rest of your day perusing this site!
- Quotations representing different leadership needs

### 2. Optional Openings

#### MOVIE CLIP

Tell your students—

**Hoosiers is the inspirational story of a small-town basketball team overcoming great odds to win the Indiana state championship, beating a school 10 times (or more) their size along the way. The story within the story is about one man overcoming adversity to win over a group of basketball players, earning their respect and leading them to the championship. This clip depicts the turn he made in earning their respect. The team hadn't taken him very seriously until this scene.**

Show the clip. (See Materials for counter cues.) After showing the clip, ask—

**Have you ever known a great leader? Is there someone in your life who motivates you to be a better person?**

#### DEMOTIVATIONAL TALK

Read a few "demotivator" sayings from [www.despair.com/viewall.html](http://www.despair.com/viewall.html) These "demotivational" posters are a parody of the motivational posters you see on the walls of office cubicles—and they're funny! Find a few that make you laugh out loud and some that speak to bad leadership. Reading a few faves to your students—and telling them where you found the phrases—is copyright-cool. Printing the posters or making a media presentation of the posters is not.

After the "demotivational talk," say something like—

**Those are some pretty good examples of how *not* to inspire greatness and achievement in the people around you!**

## QUOTATIONS

Share the following quotations to introduce the idea of how to encourage and light fires under people. Each quotation represents a different leadership need.

**The basic building block of good communication is the feeling that every human being is unique and of value.**

—Unknown

**Many a man would rather you heard his story than granted his request.**

—Philip Stanhope (1694–1773, Fourth Earl of Chesterfield, British statesman and writer)

**Effective questioning brings insight, which fuels curiosity, which cultivates wisdom.**

—Chip Bell (author and speaker)

## 3. Digging In

### PERSONAL STORY

Share a story of someone speaking into your life or lighting a fire under you in a way that inspired you to go to the next level. Here's an example:

I've had a lot of people light fires under me that encouraged me to take things to a higher level. I can remember Mr. Cruz telling me that I was one of his smarter fifth-grade students. I'm guessing he told all his students that they were one of his smarter students, but for me it pushed me to try a little harder to get the most out of my "smarts." I had a football coach who encouraged me to wrestle, which I did; and I became a wrestling coach years later. I had a friend who encouraged me to attend a Bible study, where I first started investigating the claims of Christ. Now I'm in ministry. I've also had people encourage me to take drugs, or do things that I shouldn't involve myself with. People are constantly asking, encouraging, arguing, and preaching. I have a friend who I get together with about once a month, and every time we do, it costs me \$20. It's not that he charges me to hang out; it's just that he's always recommending books in such a way that I have to go buy them. I take his advice almost without questioning. He's earned that position. I listen intently and even occasionally take notes when it comes to his advice. I listen to his words. I trust him. I hear his voice.

Continue with—

### GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

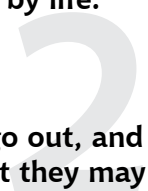
God loves you. Because of his incredible love for you, he wants the best for you. Not only does he want the best for you, but he also happens to know what's best for you. He's whispering it in your ear throughout the day. He speaks through his Word, through situations, through other people, and directly. He's just waiting for you to settle down and listen. Quiet the storm and listen to his still, small voice.

### OUR PERSPECTIVE

Jeremiah 2:13 tells us that we all struggle with going after things that ultimately don't bring us life. We desperately want and need life—and life to the fullest. Despite the fact that God wants that for us more than we even do, we get wrapped up in the details. We get distracted by life.

In John 10:9-16, Jesus says—

**"I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may**



have life, and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.”

We’ve all heard Psalm 23, and it paints a pretty good picture of the good shepherd. Isaiah 53:6 tells us that we’re all like sheep. Unfortunately, we’re like sheep that turn their backs on their shepherd. I think a big reason is that we have some trust issues. Often it takes getting to know someone and seeing the fruit of his advice before we can trust that person. Until we take the time to get to know the one we’re listening to—in the case of Jesus, by spending time with him and his Word—we can struggle with the trust issue for the rest of our lives. I don’t want to live like that. I want to live in the freedom that comes with following the great shepherd. He’s loved us enough to lay down his life for us—and that’s a love that demands a response.

#### 4. Taking It Inward

Continue—

I want to give you a chance to think about each of the characters in Jesus’ story in John 10—and to think about the role each plays in your life.

1. Think about the thief. He’s come to steal, kill, and destroy. But you’d never know it! Like all thieves, who are basically con artists, he makes you think he’s come to give, fulfill, and restore. In what ways have you believed the thief instead of things you know to be true and right? Are you tuned in to his voice more than any other voice?
2. Think about the wolf. The wolf doesn’t necessarily kill; he just attacks and scatters. He keeps a flock from being a flock. He keeps you off your game. Think about the things in your life that distract you from God, that cause you to lose your faith focus. Are these the things you’re spending your energy, time, and money on?
3. Think about the hired hand. That’s probably people such as youth workers and youth pastors. We mean well, but we can only do so much. And there’s a chance we’ll fail you or let you down in some way. We can be helpful, but have people like us replaced the one true shepherd in your life?
4. Think about the good shepherd. Of all the characters in this scene, this is the one who will lay down his life for you. This is the one who has your best interests at heart. This is the one who’ll protect you and who wants to be with you at all costs. How well do you know his voice? Could you easily recognize it over the voices of the other characters? Have you spent enough time with the good shepherd to trust whatever he says?

#### OPTIONAL MIX-INS

You may want to mention these points:

*-In John 10 Jesus lists several people who have the potential to light fires under us and encourage us in one direction or the other: the thief, who comes to steal, kill, and destroy; the wolf, who attacks and scatters the flock; the hired hand, who wants to protect but runs at the first sign of trouble; and the good shepherd, who actually lays down his life for the sheep.*

*-Jesus said that the sheep are able to know the good shepherd and recognize his voice.*

## 5. Wrapping It Up

Finish with—

**Here's an old Jewish proverb: May you follow your rabbi so closely that you're covered in the dust from his sandals.**

**Here's a relatively new interpretation of that old proverb: Wouldn't it be great if you were so close to Jesus that you could recognize him speaking to you throughout the day? For example: You're taking a test and you know you know the answer, but you just can't remember it. If you just had a prompt of some sort, you know you'd remember it, so you're about to let your eyes wander over to your friend's test paper to see...and you stop. You know it's not right. You know you're about to rationalize a cheat move, and you'll face consequences for that—more than just possible punishment, but also loss of self-respect. Jesus is the one reminding you of more than the short-term punishment; he's reminding you of the damage it will do to your insides. His voice gives you the strength to keep plowing along with the test.**