

Group Discussion Guide - Week of May 14-20, 2023

This guide is designed to help you create space for genuine connection and conversation with your group. Don't feel any pressure to answer every question each week. Instead, let the Holy Spirit lead you as you lead your group in discovering what God wants to speak to you all.

Loving (30min)

20min: Questions for Conversation & Accountability

Last week, Tyler left us with the question, "What is God asking you to do?" In light of that resonating question, discuss the following questions together:

- Q1. How have you seen God at work over the past week?
- Q2. What was one high and one low from the past week?
- Q3. How did you do with living out what we talked about last week?

10min: Prayer Requests

- Q1. How can we pray for you this coming week?

Learning (30min)

10min: Reflecting on Sunday's Message:

- Q1. What stood out to you, challenged you, or did you have a question?
- Q2. If you could ask Tyler one question about the message, what would it be?

20min: Reflecting on Scripture

1. (FYI) Read John 14:15-17. In our journey of getting closer to God, it's important to understand where we are right now, our "here." This "here" is the starting place of our movement toward the "there" God wants for us. This isn't about "doing better" or doing more but celebrating our identity as children of God and letting God grow us in the activity of this identity as we learn to know and love him more.
2. In John 15:14, Jesus gives us a starting point to move into the will of God, "If you love me, obey my commands."
 - a. What is Jesus directly stating in this verse about his love for us and our love for him?
 - b. What commands is Jesus referring to? (refer to Matt. 22:37-40, love for Jesus will lead to keeping the commands of Jesus)
3. Read John 14:26-27. Some people fight against the "commands" of God because it plays into the notion that God just wants us to "try harder" or "be better." This can be misleading because it implies we must earn God's love. Instead, God's love is graciously poured on us despite our efforts.
 - a. In what ways does the world (*a culture or people that is indifferent or hostile to God*) portray and misuse love? What are lies told by the world about love?

- b. In what ways have you experienced these lies, allowing your heart to be troubled and/or experience fear?
 - c. Is there a “fear” or “trouble” in your life that you find yourself pleading for God to intervene in?
 - d. Where do you need the peace of God in your life to overcome?
- 4. Read Luke 9:23-25. Through obedience to God, in his commands, and through his great love, we experience ultimate peace amid any storm or circumstance. And we have the Holy Spirit who lives in us and guides us in the will of God.
 - a. How does denying ourselves and taking up our cross daily to follow Jesus lead us into the will of God?
 - b. What worldly things are stealing your attention from loving God? What might you need to sacrifice to grow closer to God?

Living (30min)

In this week’s message, we celebrate the identity that we have in God. He has called us to be children of God through the work and sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and God’s great mercy. Before we ever move forward in our daily life, it is essential to remember who we are in Jesus.

Also, as we look to move forward, closer to God’s will in our lives, Tyler presented these four questions:

- 1. Will the people you’re closest to help you get there?
- 2. What adjustments need to be made?
- 3. What’s stopping you?
- 4. When can you start?

Spend time praying through these questions, being open to the difficulty they can bring when God grows us in our faith. Sometimes it means we must evaluate the people we surround ourselves with or sin in our life that needs to be confessed and forgiven. To reconcile a broken relationship or allow ourselves mercy to move past a circumstance. Or maybe it’s something else you are wrestling with, and God is stirring in your heart.

Ask, “What is stopping you” from overcoming these things?” And then have the courage to take the next step. Invite others in your faith community to walk with you, hold you accountable, and lead you. God’s will for you is already here, and he is moving you even further in it.