

Group Discussion Guide - Week of May 21-26, 2023

This guide is designed to help you create space for genuine connection and conversation with your group. Don't feel 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

- 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 Gabe one question about the message, what would it be?

20min: Reflecting on Scripture

1. Read Ephesians 1:3-14
 - a. Ephesians is a letter written to a group of churches struggling with their new, collective identity in Christ, Jew and Gentile together. With this in mind, why do you think it is important for Paul to begin his letter this way (with Jesus and divine initiative at the center)?
 - b. In v. 4, Paul says that God chose us to be "holy and blameless" (ESV) before him, but that his choosing of us was "in love." How does this continue to highlight what we've been saying throughout this series (God's will isn't about doing more or doing better)?
 - c. As Gabe pointed out, "praise" isn't just singing songs or the things we do for an hour on a Sunday morning, but is about the orientation of our life and recognizing what God has, is, and will do. What does praise look like in your life beyond Sunday or in the middle of a difficult season? Can you think of a specific example of when praise or recognizing God's will was difficult for you?
 - d. What is the "inheritance" Paul is speaking of in verse 11? What evidence from this passage leads you to this conclusion?

Living (30min)

In this week's message, Gabe challenged us to live lives of praise toward God because of what he has done for us. This week, start your time with God by saying Ephesians 1:3 out loud. Let this verse aim you at praise and recognizing God's will in the middle of all the important choices you face.