

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Message Series: The Dark
Message Title: Betrayal
Speaker: Lance Burch
Date: October 1, 2017

UP NEXT

- **LIFE GROUP TAILGATE & CHILI COOK OFF** - Go ahead and mark your calendars! Join us as a Life Group on **Sunday, October 8th** in the parking lot for a Life Group Tailgating Day. Immediately following the 10:45am service. Bring your chairs, fire pits, hot dogs, big screens, etc. and cheer on your favorite team! We will also be hosting a Chili Cook Off for you aspiring chefs out there. **Email robert.conn@reality.church to enter into the Chili Cook-off.**
- **50 & OVER BBQ AT THE LAKE (OCT 7TH)** - If you're over 50, you are invited to a BBQ hosted by Mike & Cindy Zimmerman. Meat and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish to share. If the weather is nice, there will be boating and a bonfire. If the Husker game conflicts, it will be shown. Time: 5:00pm - 10:00pm. Location: 7911 Kona Circle, Papillion. RSVP by October 6th to zimmerwoman@cox.net or by calling (402) 578-1642.
- **THE HALLOWEEN BASH - Saturday, October 28th** from 3:00pm-5:00pm at Reality Church. If you've been around Reality for any length of time you know we love The Halloween Bash. It's one of our biggest community events we do. Like previous years, we are asking that each Life Group host a 'trunk' complete with original theme and lots of candy for the kids. It could be a Pirate Ship or a Disco Floor, Candyland or Candy Crush. You're only limited by your imagination. Each trunk will get 2 parking slots. Please let us know if you're going to have any special needs (i.e. generator, extension cords, etc) and we will try to help accommodate. Roger Graber has assured me that an award will be given for the best trunk! Even if your group cannot supply a themed trunk, we still need help in other areas (Set-Up, Event help, & Clean-Up). To volunteer for these please visit **this form**.

MAIN IDEA

God uses your sufferings (*The Dark*) to shape you and your response to shape others.

INTRODUCTION

- We've actually gotten a large amount of positive feedback from *The Dark* series. Sceptically speaking, it may seem weird for a church to focus on the dark and depressing side of life for four weeks. However, rather than bringing everybody down, this series in a way, has lifted the spirits of those in attendance. We'd love to hear your thoughts on the sermon series.
- There are several possible reasons this sermon series has positively affected you:
 - You may have gotten the feeling that others have had more difficult experiences than you and have come through much better for it.
 - You may be relieved to know that others have had similar situations to yours and now you have some commonality (you don't feel alone).
 - You may feel a lifting of the pressure to be "good" in church. You are actually beginning to feel like church can be a place where it's "ok to not be ok".

DISCUSSION

- What about you? What are your thoughts on Reality Church doing a series like *The Dark*?
 - Do you think it's too much negative?

- Should we spend more time focusing on the “good” things of God and Jesus?
- Do you think God’s people ought to focus only on the positive aspects of life?

- Did Lance say anything this week that was novel to you? Meaning, you had not heard it before? What was it?

- Have someone read [\(2 Corinthians 4:5-12\)](#)
 - What jumps out at you in this passage?
 - Have you ever experienced anything like this list?
 - Is this view of faith different from the modern understanding of faith in 2017?
 - Pay special attention to verses 11-12. How would these verses be lived out in your life with your experiences?

- Have someone read [\(Hebrews 12:11\)](#)
 - Same questions...
 - What jumps out at you in this passage?
 - Have you ever experienced anything like this list?
 - Is this view of faith different from the modern understanding of faith in 2017?

- Have someone read [\(Romans 8:28\)](#)
 - What does “good” mean in this verse?
 - What does “good” look like for people who are currently suffering (abuse, trafficking, starving, betrayal, etc).
 - How could this verse come across as arrogant to someone going through The Dark?
 - What can you do to help this verse be a positive encouragement and not a negative platitude?

- Do you feel like you are going through The Dark right now?
 - Do you feel safe to share the details of that?
 - If not, what would help to make you feel safe enough to share?

APPLY IT

- Lance mentioned two individuals, both having gone through difficult situations... Hugh Hefner and Ravi Zacharias.
 - Hugh Hefner allowed the dark to shape him and he in turn shaped the world through Playboy magazine.
 - Ravi Zacharias allowed God to shape him in the dark and in turn has shaped the world through profound theological teaching.
- Are you allowing the dark to shape you? Or are you allowing God to shape you while in the dark?

RESOURCES

- We have compiled a list of reliable, trustworthy counselors who are here to listen and help, as well as many other services for specific needs. Visit reality.church/thedark