



WEEK TWO

**GOD
SPEAKS
THROUGH
PATTERNS &
PRINCIPLES
IN HIS WORD**

PREPARING FOR YOUR SMALL GROUP

Your second week is all about continuing to make connections in your group.

WHAT TO COMMUNICATE

- Follow up personally with each person who came to your group (text, phone call, or personal email). Thank them for coming and invite them back for Week 2. This is the most important thing you can do this week.
- If anyone missed the group, be sure to reach out and see if they need anything.
- Send out prayer requests to the group.
- Encourage everyone to read Week 2 of *Hearing God*.

WHAT TO PRAY

- Pray that everyone would come back for Week 2.
- Pray for any prayer requests that were mentioned at your first meeting. Be sure to reach out to anyone this week who had a prayer request and check in on them.
- Pray for each person in your Small Group to grow in their desire to study God's Word.



WHAT TO EXPECT

You have the first week wrapped up! Follow up personally with everyone in your Small Group, and you should have a good idea of who will be at the next meeting. You might have some new faces, so plan a fun ice-breaker question again to kick things off and help everyone get to know each other better. Spend time laughing and snacking. At this point in your group, connecting is still your number one goal.

Speaking of snacking, remember that you don't have to provide snacks yourself every week. Instead, ask the people in your group to sign up each week to bring something. This does more than lighten your load. It gets everyone in the group involved. Plus, people who sign up, show up!

LEADING YOUR SMALL GROUP



WEEK 2

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WARM-UP

Tell us about a time you had to make a tough decision and didn't know what to do. What happened?

INTRO

Wouldn't it be nice if the Bible addressed every question and every decision we had to make in life? Unfortunately, it doesn't. What it does, however, is vital. The Bible reveals God's character and nature to us. It invites us into a relationship with Him. And it shows us how to live. Today, we will talk about what God's Word does for us when we study it.

DISCUSSION

1. **Read 2 Timothy 3:16.** According to this verse, what is the Bible useful for? Write down all four concepts Paul mentions. Then discuss how the Bible accomplishes each of these concepts.
2. **Read 2 Timothy 3:17.** According to this verse, what is the outcome of studying God's Word?
3. How does the Bible equip us for "every good work"? What does that mean?
4. Why is knowing the big story of the Bible important? How well do you know that story?



5. The purpose of God's Word is to reveal God's character and nature to us and to invite us into a relationship with Him. How does knowing this affect how you read the Bible?
6. Last week, we talked about having a set time and place to read God's Word. What should that time look like? What does it look like for you when you study the Bible?
7. Use the S.O.A.P. method to study a passage of Scripture.

S.O.A.P. METHOD

S - SCRIPTURE

Read James 1:22-25.

O - OBSERVATION

What observations can you make from the text?

(see next page for examples)

Here are some observations you can use to help lead the discussion:

Verse 22

- God wants us to obey the Word, not just hear or study it.
- If we do not obey the Word, we deceive ourselves.
- What would it mean to deceive yourself?

Verses 23-24

- James compares someone who does not obey the Word to a person who forgets what he or she looks like. That would be ridiculous!
- Notice the word "immediately." What we have read doesn't stick with us.
- How often do we read the Bible or hear a sermon, then immediately forget what we have learned or fail to put it into practice?

Verse 25

- The "perfect law of freedom" refers to the commands of Jesus in the New Testament, as opposed to the Old Testament Law, which did not bring freedom.
- James emphasizes obedience again.
- We should not forget what God's Word says. We should obey it.
- What's the result of obedience? God's blessing!



A - APPLICATION

How can you apply these verses to your life?

Here are some application points you could use to help guide the discussion:

- God wants us to study His Word, but it is not enough simply to study the Word, we must obey what it says.
- When we obey God's Word, His blessings follow.
- Are there any areas of your life that are not aligned with God's Word? What are they?

P - PRAYER

Go around the group and have each person say a one-sentence prayer, reflecting on something from James 1:22-25. This will be a powerful moment for your group. It might be someone's first time to pray out loud. If so, encourage them and celebrate this moment together.

APPLICATION

What is something you will do this week to study and understand God's Word more?

PRAYER

- Pray for everyone to become students of God's Word and to grow in their knowledge of who He is.
- Pray for God to reveal Himself more as you study His Word this week.
- Take prayer requests and pray for the needs of the group.