



## MANNA CHURCH HAWAII - SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE/MESSAGE NOTES

May 24, 2026 | Refined Not Abandoned

**ICEBREAKER QUESTION:** If your life lately felt like a travel experience, what would it be: smooth sailing, missed exit, delayed flight, road construction, or completely lost with no GPS and why?

### **MESSAGE SUMMARY & SCRIPTURES:**

Psalm 66 reminds us that difficult seasons are not proof that God has abandoned us. Many times, the places we never planned to be become the very places where God does His deepest work in us. Israel walked through fire, pressure, restriction, and overwhelming circumstances, yet David declares that God was still leading them through every moment of it. What felt painful and confusing was actually part of God's refining process. Just like silver is purified in fire, God uses trials to strengthen our faith, expose what is unstable, and form something deeper within us. The fire was never meant to destroy them. It was meant to refine them. (Psalm 66:10)

The Psalm also reminds us that God sometimes allows seasons that feel restrictive, heavy, and uncomfortable. There are moments where life feels unfair, overwhelming, or completely different from what we expected. Yet even in those moments, God has not lost control. He uses pressure to build endurance, maturity, dependence, and trust in Him. The phrase "we went through fire and through water" is powerful because it reminds us that pain is not permanent. They were not stuck there forever. God was guiding them through it toward something greater. The same God who brought them into the trial already knew how He would bring them out. (Psalm 66:11-12)

The story of the Sea Venture shipwreck beautifully reflects this truth. What looked like disaster became direction. What felt like being blown off course actually became part of a greater purpose. Many of us know what it feels like to pray for one thing and end up somewhere completely different. But Psalm 66 reminds us that God still sees us in the storm. He has not abandoned us, forgotten us, or lost control of the wheel. Even when life makes no sense, God is still refining, leading, and preparing us for what comes next. There is always an "after" for every "through." God still brings His people into places of abundance, healing, and purpose. (Psalm 66:12)

### **GOING DEEPER: (break up into groups of no more than 4-6 for discussion)**

1. What's one thing that stood out to you from the message or the summary?
2. Can you think of a difficult season that later helped you grow stronger, wiser, or more resilient?
3. Have you ever experienced a time where something painful or disappointing later became part of God's greater purpose in your life?
4. What is one area of your life where you need to stop fighting for control and start trusting God more deeply this week? Maybe it's a relationship, finances, health, family situation, disappointment, waiting season, or an unexpected detour that has challenged your faith.

### **PRAYER: (break up into groups of 2-3 for prayer):**

Father, help us trust Your heart even when life feels confusing, painful, or different from what we expected, knowing You are refining us and leading us with purpose. Teach us to encourage and support people who are walking through difficult seasons, reminding them they are not abandoned and not alone. Use our stories of endurance, faith, and surrender to bring hope to people who feel lost, discouraged, or overwhelmed by life's storms.



## MANNA CHURCH HAWAII - SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE/MESSAGE NOTES

May 24, 2026 | Refined Not Abandoned

# MANNA YOUTH DISCUSSION GUIDE

**ICEBREAKER QUESTION:** If your life lately felt like a travel experience, what would it be: smooth sailing, missed exit, delayed flight, road construction, or completely lost with no GPS? Why?

### **MESSAGE SUMMARY & SCRIPTURES:**

Psalm 66 reminds us that hard seasons do not mean God has left us. Sometimes the places we never wanted to become the exact places where God grows us the most. The people of Israel went through pressure, struggles, and overwhelming situations, but God was still with them through every moment. David compares it to silver being refined in fire. Fire removes what is weak and impure so something stronger can come out of it. In the same way, God can use difficult seasons to grow our faith, shape our character, and teach us to trust Him more deeply. The fire was not there to destroy them. It was there to refine them. (Psalm 66:10)

The Psalm also talks about seasons that feel heavy, stressful, or unfair. Sometimes life feels like too much. Maybe it's pressure from school, sports, family problems, friendship drama, anxiety about the future, loneliness, or disappointment when life doesn't go the way we hoped. But even in those moments, God is still in control. Psalm 66 says, "We went through fire and through water," which reminds us that pain is not permanent. They went through it. They were not stuck there forever. God was leading them the entire time, even when they could not fully see it yet. (Psalm 66:11-12)

The story of the Sea Venture shipwreck connects with this idea perfectly. What looked like a disaster actually became part of a bigger plan. Sometimes we pray for one thing, but life takes a completely different turn. Maybe you expected friendships to work out differently, thought your family situation would improve faster, hoped for different results at school, or imagined life going another way. But God still sees you in the middle of the storm. He has not forgotten you or abandoned you. Even when life feels confusing, God is still working beneath the surface, preparing you, growing you, and leading you toward what's next. There is always an "after" for every "through." God still brings healing, growth, purpose, and hope on the other side. (Psalm 66:12)

### **GOING DEEPER: (break up into groups of no more than 4-6 for discussion)**

1. Share one thing that stood out to you from the message or summary?
2. What is one challenge or stressful situation teens your age are facing the most right now? Why do you think it affects people so deeply?
3. Why do you think it can be difficult to trust God when life does not go the way we expected?
4. Think about one area of your life where you've been trying to control everything yourself. Maybe it's school stress, family struggles, friendships, sports pressure, anxiety about the future, or disappointment from something that didn't work out. Spend time this week praying honestly about it and asking God to help you trust Him one step at a time. Share it with a trusted friend, leader, or family member who can encourage you.

### **PRAYER: (break up into groups of 2-3 for prayer):**

Father, help us trust You even when life feels confusing, stressful, or different from what we expected. Remind us that You are still with us in every difficult season and that You are using even hard moments to grow us and strengthen our faith. Help us encourage friends, classmates, teammates, and family members who may be struggling right now so they know they are not alone. Use our stories to bring hope to people who feel overwhelmed, lost, or discouraged, and remind us that You are always leading us through the storm. Amen.



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**Psalm 66:10–12 (ESV)** *“For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried. You brought us into the net; you laid a crushing burden on our backs; you let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.”*

- 1) God \_\_\_\_\_ What He Intends to \_\_\_\_\_ (v.10)]
- 2) God Allows \_\_\_\_\_ Without Losing \_\_\_\_\_ (v.11)
- 3) God Uses \_\_\_\_\_ Without Crushing \_\_\_\_\_ (v.11b)
- 4) God \_\_\_\_\_ People Problems to \_\_\_\_\_ Us (v.12)
- 5) Fire and Water Are Not the End (v.12b)
- 6) God Always Has an ‘After’ (v.12c)

## 5 Lifestyle Anchor Points

Anchor 1: Anchor Faith to God’s \_\_\_\_\_, Not \_\_\_\_\_

Anchor 2: Replace ‘Why Me?’ With ‘What Are You Forming?’

Anchor 3: Stay Obedient on \_\_\_\_\_ Paths

Anchor 4: Don’t Confuse \_\_\_\_\_ With \_\_\_\_\_

Anchor 5: Anchor Hope to God’s \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

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Discussion Guide/Going Deeper



Growth Track



Start a Small Group!

