

Canvas Life Groups: *TALK IT OVER*

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE: LEADER NOTES

Message Title: *There is Hope*

Suggestions for This Week's Study

❖ **Share personal and group Wins**

➤ **Ice-Breaker Question:** What is your favorite ice cream and how long have you attended Canvas?

❖ **Message Purpose: (The main focus of the message)**

❖ **Prayer:** Jesus, help us to create opportunities to experience God in a life changing way, that we would listen to your Holy Spirit as we discuss your word so we can apply it in ways that honor you and bless the people within our sphere of influence. Amen.

Preparing to Lead Your Group

❖ **PRAY** for insight as you begin to prepare to lead your group. Ask for God's wisdom, that His Holy Spirit will be the teacher and that you will be God's instrument to lead the group to greater understanding and a willingness to commit to becoming more like Jesus.

❖ **PLAN** your group's next step together? How is your group balancing the *Upward, Inward, Outward* components of healthy community? How can you challenge the members of your group to live a healthy Christian life? Contact your Life Group Coach for suggestions.

❖ **PONDER YOUR PROGRESS** Reflect on what went well and what needs tweaking. How are you doing with leading the discussion: does it encourage participation, challenging and meaningful? Are you able to keep the group on track? Do you need to make some changes or minor tweaks? Ask a key person in your group how your group is doing. Contact your Life Group Coach and discuss your process.

Using This Sermon Discussion Guide

❖ *Talk It Over* is a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. It is designed to be completed easily within 30-45 minutes. As the discussion leader, you should preview and evaluate the questions based on the needs of your group. Decide in advance what is most important to focus on, never feel like you have to complete all of the questions. **Another option is to watch the video before the discussion. [Canvas.church/dysfunction](https://www.canvaschurch.org/dysfunction)**

❖ Personal applications are essential for growth and should be included in every discussion. Try to be as specific as possible. Provide dates, times and people you will share your insights with. I.e. Pair up (same gender) during the week and discuss your progress.

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❖ Your goal as the leader is to bring the group into a robust discussion that helps the members recognize their need for personal life change. You want the group to be willing to commit to change with accountability to each other. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments and achieve the blessings of success.

Big Picture: How does what God is doing fit within our Life Group?

- ❖ Share WINS for the Week
- ❖ Ice Breaker question: What is your favorite ice cream and how long have you attended Canvas?
- ❖ What was the main point or direction of the message?
- ❖ Prayer

Digging Deeper: What does it say about God? (Upward) What is God saying to us? (Inward) What will we do with this truth? (Outward)

Crawl: questions to create discussion, general to the message topic

Dysfunction Defined: Romans 3:23 “For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of *God’s glorious standard.*” -- not operating normally or properly,

1. Who sets the standard of what ‘normal’ looks like in our society?
2. What media avenue most influences your “normal”? Movies, Music, T.V., Books, etc.?
3. What are some obstacles we face in admitting to dysfunction in our lives/families/selves?

Walk: personally directed questions (Inward)

Romans 3:23 says “For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.”

1. What comes to your mind when you hear this verse? Fear, Confidence, Hopeless, Challenged, something else?
2. How does this thought process help us understand the dysfunction we all experience?

Proverbs 14:12 says “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.”

1. What are some things that make the way seem right to us?
2. How have you experienced the final destination being death, or destruction?
3. What three truths about dysfunction did Pastor Kevin bring up? Anything about these three that surprised you, or made you think? Any others you would add?
4. Have you been able to identify any personal cycles of dysfunction that you have allowed to sneak into your family or personal life?

Run: deeper open ended questions, missional and application centered (Outward)

1. Where do we start in addressing dysfunction in our lives, families, friends?
2. What are some practical ways that we can start with Jesus? What are some new

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behaviors that we can adopt? As a group make a list of some practical behaviors.

3. What does it look like to begin with hope in mind? How does that encourage you to continue moving forward with faith?
4. What are some particular passages that bring hope and confidence in God's ability to transform your life that you lean on?

❖ **A quote, point or scripture to focus on in question form:**

"The goal is to learn to depend on -- to trust -- what God says is true about you, so that together you can begin dealing with that Stuff" (From the Book TrueFaced)

1. What does God's word say about you? Read Eph. 1:1-19; 2:10 (Realize that the plural pronouns can be your Life Group and you as an individual)

Application: Putting Feet on our Faith

- What specific steps will I/We take to live this out.
- Who can we share this message or insight with?
- Who are you praying for to know Jesus?
- Who will I partner with to keep me accountable so I/We can grow?