

## **LEADER: SUGGESTIONS & THOUGHTS AS YOU LEAD...!**

### **5 thoughts on leading your group**

1. **PRAY** for insight as you begin to prepare for leading your group. Ask for God's wisdom, that the 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 having a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.
2. **PLAN** where you want to take your group in the next 60-90 days. Is your group strong in some areas and weak in others? How can you challenge the members to live more balanced Christian lives? Challenge members to look for new ways for them to **CONNECT** and/or take **NEXT STEPS** toward growing in their relationship with Jesus Christ. Remember, your role will be most impactful if you focus on simply being an **ENCOURAGER**.
3. **PONDER YOUR PROGRESS** after each meeting and at the end of a semester. Reflect on what went well and what did not. Re-evaluation is key to your growth as a leader. Consider whether your plan is being effective in moving the group to greater understanding and commitment. How are you doing with leading the discussion: is it stimulating, challenging, and meaningful? Are you able to keep the group on track? Do you need to make some changes?
4. **PREVIEW** the weekly GG questions, understanding that they are simply a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. As the GG leader, you should examine and evaluate the questions based on the needs of your group. Decide in advance what is most important to focus on, should time not allow for the entire lesson. Again, it is just a guide for you!
5. **PROMOTE ACCOUNTABILITY**: Your goal as the leader is to bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their needs for personal life change. Ultimately, you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments as we all grow in our relationships with Jesus Christ. Encourage each group member to be accountable to the group for personal progress at the next meeting.

Justified  
October 28<sup>th</sup> 2018

**Romans 5:1-5**

*5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*

Remember this is a very deep theological passage so take time to read and reread. Take time to pray and ask God to help you as you take in this information and discuss it with your group.

**Questions**

**1. What does justification mean?** (*Declared or made righteous in the sight of God.*)  
**How are we rightfully justified?** (*Faith in Jesus as our Lord and Savior*)

**2. What kind of peace is this passage referring to in Verse 1?** (*Peace with God because we are justified*) **Why didn't we have peace with God before?** (*We were slaves to sin and because of that we were enemies of God (Col 1:21)*)

**3. What does God's grace mean for us in verse 2?** (*Freedom from Sin, Freedom from the wrath we were born into*)

**4. What is standing grace?** (*God's undeserved favor towards us is not only the way salvation comes to us, it is also a description of our present standing before God...His grace never runs out. It is current and eternal*)

**5. What does biblical Hope mean?** (*Full assurance of what God has promised*)

**6. What has God promised us about eternity in heaven through faith in Jesus?** (*See our Lord face to face and He will dwell among us; The redemption of our Bodies: Whole and Healthy bodies, Consummation of our righteousness: Whole and Healthy Souls; The promise of Fulfillment and Joy*)

**7. How do Trials and Suffering help us grow in our relationship with Jesus?**  
**(Produces Perseverance:** The ability to withstand and push through; **Produces Character:** The image of Christ that's present in us being made clearer; **Produces Hope:** The ability to understand why we can find joy through all the trails and suffering the earth can bring.)