

## 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. **Prayer should be your primary source of personal preparation for leading your group.**
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.

## Heaven | Part 2

May 3, 2020

### QUESTIONS

- What is one idea from the message that really stood out to you?
  - Why did this idea grab your attention?
  
- Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-9
  - What are the different types of bodies?
  - In verse 9, it reads that we should aim to please the Lord. What does that mean to you today?
  - In what ways have you seen people at New River aiming to please the Lord?
  
- On the cross, Jesus speaks to one of the criminals and says, “Truly I tell you, today. Today when your body ceases to exist, you will be with Me in paradise.”
  - What are some truths gained from this conversation?
  
- Read John 20:27
  - What do we learn about our bodies, even after death?
    - *(Leader Resource: one is earthly and one is heavenly, yet both are in some state of being physical)*
  
- What are the main differences between an earthly-body & a Glorified Heavenly body?
  
- Read Luke 22:29-30
  - What do these verses give evidence to?
    - What occurs during a good meal/feast?
  
- Describe, as best you can, what you believe worshipping God without the curse of sin will look like or feel like.
  
- What is the difference between learning something and already knowing it?
  - Share a time in your life where you learned how to do something new and the joy it brought you.
  
- Read Ephesians 3:18-19
  - God is bigger than forever! One day, we will experience and truly understand how wide, long, high and deep His love is for us!
    - In other words, we will never stop learning about His Love.
      - What does that mean to you?
      - What does that make you think about?
  
- Read Revelation 7:9
  - Not only will Heaven be filled with infinite learning, but it will also be filled with

infinite relationships.

- Have you ever met a Christ-follower from another country? Describe the experience.
  - How will your experiences in meeting followers from other nations be similar in Heaven?
    - Imagine having the opportunity to meet everyone from everywhere throughout history.
- Read Revelation 21:23 & Revelation 8:1
  - From what you read in both verses what is your personal opinion of ‘time’ in Heaven?
    - Regardless of how ‘time’ is measured or how it will exist, we know for certain that our God is good and what He has in store for us in eternity will be good!
      - God will always be in control and whatever ‘time’ is in eternity, it will be pure, perfect and holy!
        - What are your thoughts after reading and discussing this topic of ‘time’ in Heaven?
- Throughout this quarantine, most of us have had more time. We have enjoyed conversations, meals and recreation more and have not been distracted or rushed.
  - When we come out of this quarantine, it’s important that we hold on to this understanding of time and be mindful of it so that we do not end up like before. Living a life that is driven by time, a life is pressured by time and being in the grip of time!
    - Practice using the word ‘time’ as a trigger word to remember that God is in control. We’re not in control of time, and the enemy is not, either. Only our Creator is in control of TIME. Remember that in every occurrence of hearing that word.
    - Challenge your GG and your family to do the same!
    - Why did we allow ‘time’ to have so much control over us in the past?
      - What are some practical ways moving forward to make sure we do not fall into that trap again?
- Remember each other, pray for each other...and as always...TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER!

### **\*Bonus Questions for Teens**

1. What was one idea that stood out to you in the message?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-2. What does that passage teach us about bodies?
3. If you could learn how to do anything and be the best in the world at it, what would it be?
  - a. Did you know that will be possible in Heaven? Share what you would want to do.
4. How long would it take you to learn every student’s name in your school, their address, their parent’s names, their pets, their cars and all of their wardrobe?
  - a. Now imagine being able to learn that and more about everyone that is a

Christ-follower throughout all of world history. Describe what that would look like and how you would go about it.

5. Do you think there will be 'time' in Heaven? Why or why not?
  - a. Read Revelation 21:23 & Revelation 8:1
    - i. After reading those verses, do you think there will be 'time' in Heaven?