

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 1

April 26, 2020

QUESTIONS

- What is one idea from the message that really stood out to you?
 - Why did this idea grab your attention?
- Open up:
 - Name a movie, a TV show, or song with the word 'Heaven' in the title.
- Read John 14:1-3
 - Jesus deliberately used understandable terms to describe where He was going.
 - What are some of those terms in this passage?
- What are some unbiblical assumptions that people have about Heaven?
 - Has there ever been a point in your life where you thought being in Heaven simply meant singing a song forever and ever and ever and ever?
 - Share some of your misunderstandings of what Heaven will be like.
- Read John 8:44
 - What did Jesus have to say concerning the traits of satan?
 - What do these traits say about the enemy?
- Read Revelation 13:6
 - Who or what does satan speak slander/blasphemy of?
 - Why is he so bitter toward God? (Isaiah 14:12)
- Parts of society and culture paint a boring picture of Heaven, meanwhile, these same people depict hell as a party where people tell jokes, eat and drink forever.
 - What happened along the way that caused this kind of confusion?
 - Everything good is from God, without Him there would be NOTHING to do.
 - Read Psalm 16:11
 - What is there to do in the presence of God? Expound on the limitless of emotions like:
 - Goodness, enjoyable, fascinating, interesting, pleasurable, glorious, marvelous, and wonderful
- Have you or have you heard someone say, "Won't it be boring to be good all the time?"
 - Please understand to think that way means that you believe that sin is fun and righteousness is bland.
 - That is a false narrative created by satan since the beginning of time.
 - What lie did he give Adam & Eve?
 - What does sin actually do in the end?

- Some people think of God as being without humor and that somehow we invented it along the way.
 - Did we invent laughter, humor and wit?
 - Discuss the fullness of God’s sense of humor. Can you begin to describe it?
 - Have you ever tried? If not, that displays just how much we have all been deceived.
- Read this quote from Simone Weil. Share your thoughts.

Imaginary evil is romantic and varied; real evil is gloomy, monotonous, barren, boring. Imaginary good is boring; real good is always new, marvelous, intoxicating.

- Read Revelation 21:27
 - How do you get your name placed in the Book of Life?
 - Remember the story of Ruthanna Metzgar, the professional singer who forgot to RSVP the wedding banquet.
 - Have you taken the time to RSVP Christ’s invitation to eternal life with Him in Heaven?
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“Things Unseen” by Mark Buchanan

Why won’t we be bored in heaven? Because it’s the one place where both impulses—to go beyond, to go home—are perfectly joined and totally satisfied. It’s the one place where we’re constantly discovering—where everything is always fresh and the possessing of a thing is as good as the pursuing of it—and yet where we are fully at home—where everything is as it ought to be and where we find, undiminished, that mysterious something we never found down here. . . . And this lifelong melancholy that hangs on us, this wishing we were someone else somewhere else, vanishes too. Our craving to go beyond is always and fully realized. Our yearning for home is once and for all fulfilled. The ahh! of deep satisfaction and the aha! of delighted surprise meet, and they kiss.

- Remember each other, pray for each other...and as always...TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER!

***Bonus Questions for Teens**

1. What do you think of when you hear the word ‘Heaven?’
2. If a friend asked you what eternity was, what would your answer be?
3. Read John 8:44. How does Jesus describe satan?
4. Did you know that satan was booted out of Heaven and now you are invited there?
 - a. How do you think that makes satan feel about God kicking him out?
 - b. How do you think that makes satan feel about you being invited and he can never return?
 - c. Knowing this, what should you be on the lookout for?

5. Who created joy?
 - a. Who created adventure?
 - b. Who created laughter?
6. If God created joy, adventure and laughter, then He's anything but boring!
 - a. Knowing that God has limitless powers, what do you now think Heaven can be like?
 - i. Heaven is obviously a very special place. Read Matthew 7:13-14.
 - ii. What does Jesus say about the gate leading into Heaven?
 1. What does that mean to you, your friends and your family?