

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.

Sunday
April 19, 2020

QUESTIONS

***There's "Answers for the leader" under certain question to help you as the leader to provide answers to the questions if needed**

- 1. Start off by reading Matthew 6:19-21 & vs 24.**

In these verses Jesus tells us not to make money or material things our God. This Corona Pandemic has clearly shown us that we cannot place our trust and security in our jobs, money, or material things. Has God showed or spoken to you in similar ways during this pandemic? If so, please explain.

- 2. Read Matthew 6:25-34**

Vs. 27

Remember the definition of worry according to Dictionary.com- to torment oneself with or suffer from disturbing thoughts.

We know that worry can impact us physically, mentally, and emotionally, but did you know it can also impact you spiritually? If yes, how so?

***Answers for the leader:**

Worry is not just a physical but a spiritual matter. Because we see throughout scripture where followers of Christ are directly told not to worry or be afraid. Ex., Joshua 1:9 the Lord tells Joshua to not be afraid but to be strong and courageous. Jesus Himself in this passage (Matthew 6:25-34) says not to worry, and Paul in Philippians 4:6-7 tells us not to be anxious/worry about anything, but to pray. Though we're told not to worry, like anything else it doesn't mean we won't struggle from time to time. But if we constantly worry then that's a spiritual thing as well. We can trust God because He's Lord of all and because He's Emmanuel, literally God with us.)

- 3. Can any of your worries add a single moment to your life, or add height, or anything physically positive to your life? If comfortable, share about a time when you worried about something that ended up doing you no good.**

4. What are ways we can combat worry?

***Answers for the leader:**

Prayer, quoting scripture/memorizing scripture/the promises of God, listening to worship songs, speaking with a pastor or Godly mentor, professional Christian counseling

- 5. These verses say God feeds the birds which do not store food into barns, and clothes the grass of the field which Solomon in all his splendor could not compete with. It's here today then when it dries up is thrown away. How encouraging is it to know that from the very mouth of Jesus, He says we are much more important than they? Please explain.**

Answers for the leader:

**-We're God's creation and the only creation made in the image of God (Genesis 1)
-If God provides food for the birds and clothing for the grass/wild flowers of the field then He will definitely provide for His children, those who are followers of Him**

- 6. Vs. 31-33 tells us because God will take care of us, not to worry about what we will eat or drink because that's what dominates the minds of those who don't know God, unbelievers. But seek first God and live righteously, and everything we need will be given to us. How are we acting like unbelievers when we worry? And how do we seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness?**

Answers for the leader:

**-Unbelievers do not have faith in, rely on or trust in God to provide for them. We act like an unbeliever when we do the same.
-When we focus only on the circumstance and worry of our daily need, we forget God is our provider and therefore act as an unbeliever
-We seek first God by asking for His will in our lives and making Him part of every decision. By being obedient to His word. Loving Him and loving others. Gathering with brothers and sisters in Christ to worship the Lord.
When we're living in His will, we can always know the Lord will provide for our needs.**

- 7. Jesus says when we seek Him first, He'll always provide for our needs. Why do you think He says He'll provide for our NEEDS, and not our wants?**

Answers for the leader:

-Wants are different than needs. Our needs is what we must have in order to survive. Wants are things that we may like but not necessarily need. Sometimes we confuse wants with needs. Sometimes we want things so bad that we'll neglect God for it without even realizing it. God knows us better than we know ourselves, and therefore knows what we need

Take some time to end in prayer and thanking God for being the One who can provide for all our needs...

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