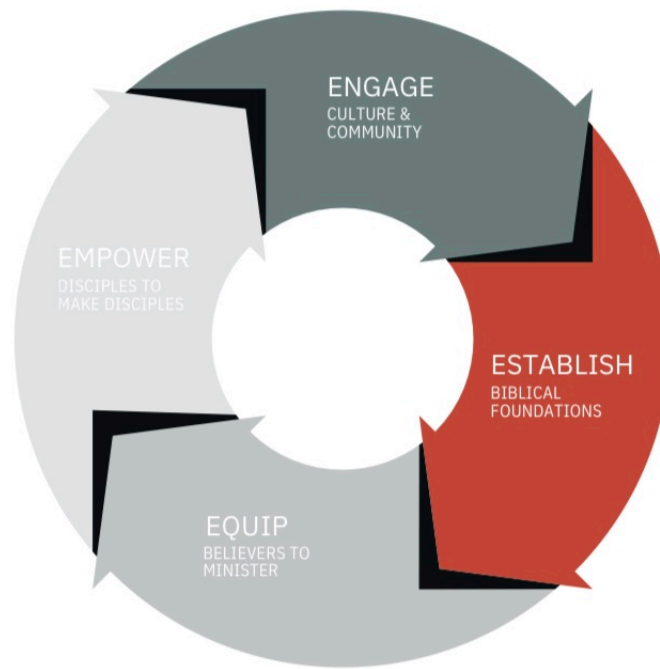


The mission of Rise Up Church is to raise disciples, empower families, and revitalize neighborhoods by the transformational power of the gospel. At Rise Up Church, our discipleship rhythm shapes how we live and expressed in four key movements that we call the 4E's. It is all about following Jesus and helping others do the same.



The purpose of our Koinonia Gatherings is to establish people in biblical foundations by building Christ-centered connections. We believe the Scriptures teaches that life change happens best in community, as we grow together in God's Word and are led by the Holy Spirit.

Below, you'll find a sermon-based guide from the most recent sermon to help lead a Rise Up Church Koinonia Gathering, along with a five day devotional designed to help you apply the sermon throughout the week.

# **Koinonia Gather Leaders Guide**

## **Isaiah 7:1-14 - Leader Edition**

**Theme: Emmanuel - God Is With Us Even In The Crisis**

### **Focal Exegesis**

The promise of Emmanuel is Christ - God with us in crisis, sin, and salvation. Isaiah 7 reveals that God takes the initiative to save, even when His people wrestle with unbelief, fear, or rebellion. Emmanuel is not only a sign for Ahaz and Judah, but a promise that finds its full meaning in the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. This guide provides expanded historical context, deeper theological explanation, and leader notes that help guide your group toward Christ-centered understanding.

### **Leader Overview Notes**

Isaiah 7 captures a crucial moment where fear confronts faith. Judah faces external threats, but God identifies a deeper internal crisis: Ahaz's refusal to trust Him. Ahaz responds with self reliance, political alliances, and spiritual compromise. Yet God extends grace, offers assurance, and reveals Emmanuel, pointing beyond Ahaz to Christ. Leaders should emphasize God's patience, sovereignty, and desire for authentic faith.

### **Background Summary**

Israel and Judah are divided. Judah is threatened by Israel and Syria. Ahaz is terrified and spiritually compromised. God sends Isaiah to reassure Ahaz that the attack will fail, but warns him that if he does not stand firm in faith, he will not stand at all. This becomes the stage for God's revelation of Emmanuel.

### **Point 1 - Rely On His Promises**

Judah trembles at the threat of invasion. God declares the attack will not stand, yet Ahaz rejects God's Word and turns to Assyria for help. True reliance means choosing faith over fear and trusting God's promises even when circumstances seem overwhelming.

### **Leader Notes**

*- Use Isaiah 7:9 to show the importance of standing firm in faith. - Explain how fear distorts spiritual vision. - Connect Ahaz's alliance with Assyria to modern forms of misplaced trust. - Invite honest discussion about areas where God's promises feel hard to believe.*

Life Application Question: Where are you relying on your own plans instead of God's promises?

## **Point 2 - Rest In His Presence**

Despite Ahaz's rebellion, God graciously invites him to ask for a sign. Resting in God's presence means embracing His nearness, slowing down to listen, and receiving His peace. Emmanuel is the ultimate reassurance that God steps into human panic with divine comfort.

### **Leader Notes**

*- Emphasize God's grace in inviting Ahaz to trust Him. - Connect Isaiah's prophecy to Matthew 1:23. - Encourage the group to identify what keeps them from resting spiritually. - Reinforce that God's presence is a gift, not something earned.*

Life Application Question: What would resting in God's presence look like this week?

## **Point 3 - Resist Empty Pretense**

Ahaz hides behind spiritual language to avoid obedience. God exposes this empty pretense and declares that He Himself will give the sign. God desires authenticity rather than performance. Resist pretense by embracing honesty, surrender, and genuine trust.

### **Leader Notes**

*- Define empty pretense with real examples. - Help members identify areas where they hide behind spiritual talk. - Encourage honesty and authenticity in the group. - Explain how pretense blocks spiritual growth.*

Life Application Question: Where is God calling you to move from appearance to authenticity?

## Defeater Beliefs

1. I must solve my crisis alone. 2. God is distant in my pain. 3. My failures disqualify me from God's help. 4. God only moves for strong believers.

### Leader Notes

*Use these beliefs to help your group identify internal barriers. Point them toward Emmanuel - God with us - as the truth that dismantles each lie.*

## 5 Day Devotional - Leader Edition

### Day 1 - God With Us In Crisis

Read Isaiah 7:1-2. Reflection: Judah trembled at the threat, but God declared it would not stand. Fear magnifies danger; God restores perspective. Leader Insight: Help members identify the fears that shake them. Challenge: Write down one fear and speak one Scripture against it. Prayer: Lord, steady my heart and fix my eyes on You.

### Day 2 - God With Us In Failure

Read 2 Chronicles 28:1-4. Reflection: Ahaz's failures were many, yet God still pursued him. God's mercy reaches rebels and restores the broken. Leader Insight: Highlight God's willingness to draw near to the undeserving. Challenge: Confess an area where shame has silenced your confidence. Prayer: Father, thank You for pursuing me even when I fail.

### Day 3 - God Invites Us To Trust

Read Isaiah 7:10-11. Reflection: God invites Ahaz to trust, offering a sign to strengthen his faith. God still invites His people today. Leader Insight: Show how faith grows when we respond to God's invitations. Challenge: Identify one step of obedience you have delayed and take it. Prayer: God, give me courage to obey Your call to trust.

### Day 4 - God Exposes Pretense

Read Isaiah 7:12-13. Reflection: Ahaz used spiritual talk to hide his unbelief. Pretending prevents healing and blocks transformation. Leader Insight: Encourage transparent discussion. Challenge: Admit one area where you have been hiding behind an appearance of strength. Prayer: Lord, remove pretense from my heart and make me authentic before You.

### Day 5 - God Gives Emmanuel

Read Isaiah 7:14. Reflection: Emmanuel is God's initiative to save, not humanity's effort. Jesus is the gift of God's nearness. Leader Insight: Emmanuel reshapes how believers face crisis. Challenge: Reflect on one way God has shown faithfulness to you this year. Prayer: Jesus, thank You for being God with us. Strengthen my confidence in Your presence today.