



ROOTED

Week 6 and 7 Group Guide How Can I Make the Most of My Life? Parts 1 and 2

Icebreaker

When you were a kid, what was your favorite candy? Do you still love it? What is your favorite dessert now? When was the last time you had it? Describe your ideal ice cream sundae. Now, who wants to go get dessert after our *Rooted* time?

Overview of the Main Theme

This week, we are combining weeks six and seven in our *Rooted* books. Jesus has a role for us to play in the world. As the book says on page 112, “Jesus has come to restore all creation--that is, to bring everything in creation back to the way God intended.” He invites us to be a part of his mission.

Note: If your group has completed your group “Reach Local” opportunity, take time as a group to discuss and debrief. What was the experience like for you? What did you learn? Did it change how you see people? Where did you see/hear God during this experience?

Prayer

God, it is humbling to think that you want us to help you on your mission of repairing the world. Help us to be alert to what your Spirit is asking us to do. Help us to see others the way that you see them. Bless our time tonight as we discuss in our groups. Amen.

Story Sharing

Remember, if it is your turn to share, try to keep it to 5-7 minutes. Ask someone in your group to time you!

Group Discussion Time

Note: Every person in the group shares their learning experience. Others in the group can briefly share their experiences about the same thing. Just watch the time. No commenting on or correcting what others are learning.

- Share **ONE** idea/devotional/question that spoke to you. Refer to the page in *Rooted*.
- Explain **WHY** this grabbed your attention. There is a reason God spoke to you through this idea or word.
- Share **WHAT** you think God wants to do in your life about that word.
- Share **HOW** you are already **RESPONDING**.

As a reminder, these are the questions that you considered in your response time during this week’s devotionals. Each member can take a moment to share which question they would like to discuss as a group.

- Where have you seen the redemption of Jesus in your life? Where has he made something new?
- Where do you feel God calling you to do good works?
- What surprises you about Jesus’ heart?
- Who are people you know who have hearts like Jesus? What attracts you to them?
- What does it look like to serve out of your purpose rather than agenda?
- What are ways you can become involved in the Great Commission?
- What are your thoughts about being “blessed to be a blessing” when it comes to sharing the Good News?

- Where in your life do you need the Holy Spirit's power?
- What would you like to accomplish through the power of the Holy Spirit?
- What are some spiritual gifts you have been given? How can you use these gifts in this season of your life?
- As you look at your life and the gifts God has given you, what sense do you have of the purpose he has for you and how he wants to use you?
- How do you see yourself contributing to the needs of the six sectors of society through your gifts?
- Who are the marginalized people and outcasts of today's society?
- Who is your neighbor?
- Where have you seen Jesus "disguised" as someone in need? What was your response?
- Were you ever on the receiving end of another person's help? What did the person's actions tell you about him or her?
- Where are you more comfortable serving, in the church or in the community? Why?
- How does the definition of poverty (week 7, day 3) change your view of those in need?
- What is your reaction when you encounter situations of injustice?
- Where have you experienced the compassion of God in your life?
- Where have you experienced the compassion of others?
- Where have you experienced a lack of it?
- What are obstacles to a lifestyle of service that you have experienced?
- What are things you can do this week in service to someone in your life and/or those living in poverty?
- What are your thoughts about how our call to help bring peace--shalom--to our world? Is it overwhelming for you, or does it excite you?

Group Discernment

After the group sharing, discover how God has been speaking. Look for a common thread or a core theme that is being revealed through the study and conversation. You have been listening to one another and NOW, together, you listen to what Jesus is saying. What is the next step that God would like you to take this week? Where can you reach out in service to others?

Closing Prayer

God, it is an honor to get to serve others in your name. Help us to always keep that in mind. Your word tells us that when we serve "the least of these" we are actually serving you. Help us to love others well. Give us opportunities this week to reach out with love, mercy, compassion, and justice. We love you, God. Amen.

Reminders for Next Week

1. *Rooted* chapter 8 is all about money. Please work through those five devotionals for next week.
2. Who wants to be ready to share their story?
3. Is anyone going to bring a snack (if your group is doing that)?
4. Anything else?