

DEEPER

THE DISCIPLINE OF GUIDANCE



OPENING

- Ask the group members what they usually do when they need guidance.
- Ask everyone to cite the forms of guidance on which their friends and colleagues tend to rely.

SERMON REVIEW

- The way a journey goes often depends on the guide who leads the way.
- *Read your Bible.* We know it's there to guide us, but often fail to depend upon it! (Psalm 119:105, Hebrew 4:12, 2 Timothy 3:16-17.)
- *Seek God first.* Where do you turn first? Who's the first person you consult? What you turn to first is what you trust most. (Matthew 7:7-8, Jeremiah 29:13.)
- *See God in everything.* We tend to see the negative in any given situation, rather than the good things that God is doing through it. (Romans 1:20.)
- *Seek good guides.* God has given us godly friendships for a reason. (Proverbs 15:22.)
- *One step at a time.* We want to see the whole picture at once, or the whole itinerary beforehand. God reveals his plan for your life progressively! When we look back, it's beautiful; when we look forward, it's frustrating. (Proverbs 16:9, 2 Peter 3:9, Isaiah 40:31.)
- Let's trust the good guide. He'll make sure we get through.

DISCUSSION

- Think through the narratives of the Bible. In which do you remember reading about God's guidance? What are some examples that stand out?
- Can we count on Scripture for reliable, life-changing guidance? Why or why not?
- Read Jeremiah 29:13. What does this mean for you?
- What are some practical steps that you need to take in order to start seeking God before anything else?
- How can you be sure that God is at work, even in the most apparently negative situations?
- Have you ever turned to a fellow believer for guidance? What made that person a good or bad guide?
- Can we turn to anyone within the Church for guidance, or should we be looking for a certain kind of person?
- Share testimonies of God's progressive revelation in your own life. How has guided you *one step at a time*?
- How will you live your life differently with progressive revelation in mind?

CHALLENGE

- As you read your Bible, start writing down the ways in which God is guiding you through it. Also, pray through the passages that He uses to provide direction.

- Identify a fellow believer that you respect, someone in whom you've seen the reflection of Christ. Ask that person if they would be willing to mentor you, or (at least) be available to offer guidance when you are seeking it out.

PLAN AHEAD

- Next Sunday's discipline is service. Prepare to be encouraged and challenged!