

This guide is intended to help you be better prepared to make disciples in your small group. It is based on the Sunday sermon listed in the top right corner. If you missed Sunday, make sure you listen to the sermon before your small group meeting. The messages are also on our website.

Prayerfully considering these questions will help equip you to practice mutual ministry with your family at Vertical. While it's not likely that all of these questions will be asked during your small group meeting, we believe that your personal walk with Christ will be strengthened as you meditate upon the truths that God is teaching you through His Word.

#### Expect the shaking

1. Pastor Joe said, "So many of us are expecting heaven here on earth." In what areas of your life have you been expecting heaven on earth? How has that affected your faith when things don't go as planned?
2. When your plans fall apart or the world feels unstable, where do you run first? What does that reveal about what you're clinging to?
3. Read John 16:33. What kinds of tribulation tend to shake you the most (political instability, finances, health, relationships, career, loss of control)? Why do those hit you particularly hard? According to this verse, why is true and lasting security found only in Christ?

#### Stay with the King

4. What voices or sources of information are currently competing for your attention and devotion? How can you evaluate whether they are drawing you closer to or further from Christ?
5. When you're shaken, are you tempted to withdraw from God's people or press in? How does that choice affect your ability to abide in Christ?
6. When life feels unstable, what does abiding in or clinging to Christ actually look like in your daily routine? What changes in your thoughts, habits, or reactions?

#### Set your hope higher

7. Read Hebrews 12:27–28. Where are you currently seeking stability in things that can be shaken? What would change if you truly lived like you are receiving an unshakable kingdom?
8. Pastor Joe reminded us, "You're not home yet." How does remembering that this world is not your lasting city steady you when things fall apart?
9. What area of your life currently feels hopeless or fragile? How does fixing your hope on Christ's eternal kingdom reshape the way you see that situation?
10. How can living with hope in an unshakable kingdom make you a stabilizing presence in a constantly shaking world? Where do you have opportunity this week to reflect that hope to someone else?