

This guide is intended to help you be better prepared to engage in making disciples in your small group. They are based off of the Sunday sermon listed in the top right corner. If you missed Sunday, make sure you take the time to listen to the sermon before your small group meeting. You can find the messages 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.

1. Think of the example of Jesus during His suffering. How did He respond? Can you share examples from your own life where you have done this or seen others do so?
2. Is there anything I am currently suffering through right now? As you're going through your trials right now, big or small, in what specific ways do you need to obey God?
3. In what ways have I been self-focused instead of Christ-focused in my suffering? What does that reveal about where I'm placing my trust?
4. What truths about the character of God can provide endurance and perspective to suffer well?
5. How are you training yourself to be Christ-centered?
6. Joe mentioned being eternally focused as opposed to being myopic. Is there anything you are currently looking at with "near-sighted glasses" on? What's a step you can take to change that? What Scriptures can help draw your eyes to eternity in the midst of your sufferings?
7. When I am suffering, what is my normal response? (Pull back, isolate, etc) How can I practically fight against these things to remain eternally focused and Christ centered? Give specific examples.
8. Do your actions reflect a mindset that Jesus is victor over all things? Why or why not?
9. How does focusing on Christ's experience of unjust suffering provide solace and perspective in our personal trials? Discuss the importance of a Christ-centered approach during times of hardship.