

**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.**

1. Share about a time when you learned a skill from someone who patiently taught you. What made them a good (or bad) teacher? How did their approach affect your learning?
2. Pastor Joe compared learning the Christian life to an apprenticeship. How does this picture change the way you think about your relationship with God? How is it different from just following rules?
3. The sermon said grace doesn't just expose wrong desires, it replaces them. Can you share an example from your life where God changed what you wanted, not just what you did?
4. We compared David and Saul as examples of submitting vs. resisting God's training. What characterized their different responses? Which one do you relate to more right now?
5. Paul wrote this to believers living in Crete, a notoriously wicked place. What does it mean that we're called to live godly "in the present age"? What excuses do we make for waiting to obey? Why are these ultimately foolish reasons?
6. "Grace doesn't wait for ideal conditions." What "ideal conditions" are you waiting for before you fully obey in some area? What would it look like to take the next right step today?
7. What is your first response when presented with an uncomfortable situation? How can you grow in learning to accept the uncomfortableness of God's gracious discipline?
8. What is your normal response when somebody points out sin in your life? What are some steps you can take to grow in humility so that God can shape you into the image of his Son?
9. What is currently an ungodly or worldly passion that you know you need to say "no, not now, not ever" to? How can you use the word of God and the church to help you through this?
10. What areas of your life are characterized by ungodliness—not necessarily obvious sin, but simply living without reference to God or His desires?
11. How does the truth that Jesus Himself learned obedience through suffering encourage you in your own spiritual formation and struggles?