

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.

Receive the life that Christ secured

1. Every person exists either "in Adam" or "in Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:22). What does it mean to be "in Adam"? What does it mean to be "in Christ"? Why is there no middle ground or neutral position?
2. Can you identify a moment when you moved from being "in Adam" to being "in Christ"? (Note: You don't have to remember the exact date, but there should be a definable moment.)
3. Salvation is received, not achieved. What's the difference? Why is it important that we can't earn our salvation through good works, religious activity, or moral living?

Rely on the reign Christ established

4. According to verses 24-26, Christ is currently reigning and putting all enemies under His feet. How does knowing Christ is reigning right now change how you view current events or difficult circumstances in your life?
5. Where do you go when things feel out of control? Why?

Respond to the rule Christ earned

6. When His Word calls you to change something, do you typically submit or do you delay? Share an area where you've struggled to submit to Christ's authority. What makes submission difficult in that area?
7. Christians don't outright reject Jesus, but instead keep control or only follow where it's comfortable or hold back where it's costly. In what areas of life are you most tempted to maintain control rather than submit to Christ? Why?

Rest in the victory Christ accomplished

8. What does it mean to "rest in the finished work of Jesus Christ" rather than trying to add to it?
9. Pastor Joe challenged the popular phrase "I can't forgive myself," pointing out that the Bible never commands us to forgive ourselves, but rather to humble ourselves under God's mighty hand. Why is "forgiving yourself" not a biblical concept? What should we do instead when we struggle with past sins that Christ has already forgiven?