

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.

Start with God's Delight

1. How does starting with God's delight in you rather than your performance change the way you approach daily challenges and setbacks?
2. When you start praying, are you talking about God first or yourself first? What does that tell you?
3. When you talk to yourself throughout the day, are you primarily rehearsing your failures and shortcomings or reminding yourself of what God says is true about you in Christ?
4. What areas of your life have you quietly labeled "unspiritual" and kept God out of?

Speak God's Truth

5. In what specific situation this week could you practice taking your thoughts captive and replacing negative self-talk with the truth about God's delight in you through Christ?
6. David says he's blameless, but you know about Bathsheba and Uriah, and Psalm 51 shows he knows his own wickedness. How do you make sense of both? What does that tell you righteousness actually is?
7. Blameless means whole, undivided. Where are you living divided right now? Where does the you at small group not match the you at home, at work, or on your phone?
8. What's one lie you preach to yourself when you fail? What does God actually say is true about you in Christ?

Step into Obedience

9. Read verses 29 and 30. What's the troop or wall in front of you that you've been retreating from instead of running at? Why?
10. Where do you see real, observable obedience that wasn't there a year ago? What's the next step God's already put in front of you that you've been putting off?
11. How can we pray for you and hold you to one specific step of obedience before we meet again?
12. Pastor Joe said that grace is not opposed to effort but to earning. How does understanding this distinction affect your motivation for obedience and spiritual growth?