

LIFE GROUP GUIDE
WEEK of December 10-16

PREPARE:

Before your group arrives, make sure you take a few minutes to review the Life Group video and the Life Group Guide.

- It will help you be prepared for Life Group conversations ahead of time.
- Test your video display option to make sure it is working before your Life Group members arrive.

WELCOME:

Take a few minutes to welcome Life Group members. This is your last meeting before Christmas, so you might want to ask what plans they have with family or for travel.

VIDEO:

Watch the video together

SCRIPTURE:

Read **Psalm 32: 8-11** together. Give a few minutes after reading the passage together for your group to think about what these verses are trying to teach us.

Psalm 32:

⁸ I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;

I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.

⁹ Do not be like the horse or the mule,

which have no understanding

but must be controlled by bit and bridle

or they will not come to you.

LIFE GROUP GUIDE
WEEK of December 10-16

¹⁰ Many are the woes of the wicked,
but the Lord's unfailing love
surrounds the one who trusts in him.

¹¹ Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous;
sing, all you who are upright in heart!

QUESTION:

Do you have a story where you believe God provided some guidance to you for a decision you were facing? Would you be willing to share it with our group?

QUESTION:

Who do you think God tends to communicate to?

- Have you ever had an unhealthy person try to use the phrase "God told me" to get what they wanted or to manipulate someone? How did it make you feel?

OBSERVATION:

The truth is that if we don't learn to hear the whispers and promptings of God in our life we will..

- Stop when we should move forward
- Cross lines we should not cross
- Speak when we should be silent
- Be silent when we should speak up

LIFE GROUP GUIDE
WEEK of December 10-16

OBSERVATION:

The God of the Bible insists on a relationship with His daughters and sons. There is no relationship if there is no communication. Here are some examples found in Scripture of God communicating with people:

- **Adam and Eve** heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day.
- **Noah** was instructed by God to build a giant floating structure so that he and his family could survive a coming flood.
- God spoke breathtaking **promises** to **Abraham**.
- **Moses** heard God speak from inside a burning bush. God called him to bring **freedom** to people who were living in slavery.
- Later God told Moses how to **construct** a special tent where people could worship.
- There is actually a verse in the Bible where it states that the Lord would speak to Moses face to face as a man speaks with his **friend**.
- He gave a warrior named **Gideon** specific instructions on how to defeat an **army** many times greater.
- **David**, King of Israel, would ask God for **timing** and **direction** on when and where to fight his enemies.

QUESTION:

Do you think God communicated more with people in the ancient world or do you think people in the modern world tend to listen less? Why?

LIFE GROUP GUIDE
WEEK of December 10-16

OBSERVATION:

One of the things we learn from Scripture, is that God has many ways to communicate with us.

God can speak through Scripture:

It is good to be familiar with the commands and principles that are taught in Scripture. But, there may be times when God speaks to us through Scripture. For example: you might be reading a passage of the Bible that deals with forgiveness and a person may come to your mind.

- Why did that person come to your mind.
- You could ask God if there is an action step you could take.
- It is astonishing how often an idea will come to your mind.
- Do you think it is possible that God is directing your thoughts through Scripture?

God can speak through your conscience:

Have you ever told a story to your friends where you slightly edited the information in the story to make yourself look a little better?

- How might God use your conscience in a situation like this?

Maybe you spoke harshly to someone because you were frustrated.

- How might God call your response to your attention?
- What action step might He prompt you to take?

LIFE GROUP GUIDE
WEEK of December 10-16

God can speak through insight:

You may be frustrated by some events in your life. Maybe it is a series of struggles or failures. Maybe it is a series of missed opportunities.

- God can give insight into what is going on.
- Maybe He will give you insight about what He is working out in a challenging situation.
- What do you think can happen to us if we have no insight into what is happening to us, what is happening around us, or what God is working on?

God can speak through wisdom:

We can often feel stuck or confused. We just don't know what to do next.

- Our heart is in the right place, but we don't know what to do.
- God can provide a step or a strategy to help resolve an issue.
- He can even give you the opportune timing to take that step.
- Insight helps you know what is going on. Wisdom helps you know what to do.
- What are some ways you have learned to access wisdom in your life?

God can speak through other people:

God may send someone into your life to share wisdom they learned from a season in their life.

LIFE GROUP GUIDE
WEEK of December 10-16

- They may have a capacity to understand what you are going through because they have been through something similar.

The Holy Spirit can use people to speak into our lives, but the Scripture is clear about the guidelines for that.

- Those words must be **strengthening, encouraging, and comforting**.
- Do you have a story about how God used someone to speak into your life? In what ways were their words strengthening, encouraging or comforting?

QUESTION:

Have you ever considered the possibility that God might use you to speak into someone else's life?

- How were you able to discern this what God wanted you to do?
- Do you think it is appropriate to make a decision for another person, or do you think it is better to offer counsel and allow them to make their own decision?

God can speak through worship:

A truth about God that you are declaring can become a statement from God to you.

- It can become real to you in that moment. Peace can flood your anxious heart. Hope can rekindle. Comfort can embrace a broken life.
- Do you think hearing God during our worship of Him is often a missed opportunity? Why do you think that?

LIFE GROUP GUIDE
WEEK of December 10-16

OBSERVATION:

If you want God to speak to you, you have to learn to listen.

- Give Him the **opportunity** to respond.
- Notice the **thoughts** and **insights** that come to your mind. They will not all be from God. But some of them might be.
- The ones that move you to generosity are probably from God.
- The ones that connect you with people you would prefer to avoid are probably from God.
- The ones that require you to address an issue in your character you would rather hide are probably from Him.

QUESTION:

If God wanted to say something to your group, what do you think He might say? Allow several people to respond to this.

PRAYER:

Christmas can be a very joyful time for your Life Group members. But, it could also be a very difficult time for others in your Life Group. It might be good to ask your Life Group members to share things they want to thank God for. It would also be good to ask them to share things they are concerned or anxious about. Take time to pray for each member of your Group.