

Life Group Guide

“Stepping out of the Past”

October 22-28 2018

Prep: This week, we will be focusing on how God is always calling us into the “next” thing in our lives. Before we can step into what he calls us to do, we have to address our fears and wounds of the past. God wants to help us move forward past these things so that we can be fruitful and healthy. **In your discussions, please make sure to hit two specific topics. First, the individual fears that are holding us back from our next steps, and some ways that God might resolve them. Second, as part of the NEXT campaign at church, many of us may have some apprehension and fears about the future. What are they, and how might God resolve them?** We want life group to be a place where people can process the future of our church.

Please make sure to review the material in the guide so you are prepared for the conversation in your Life Group.

Welcome:

Take a few minutes to reconnect with your group.

Video:

Show the video. It is about 3 minutes long. It will set up the conversation on addressing the past.

Scripture:

1 After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses’ aide: **2** “Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. **3** I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. **4** Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. **5** No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. **6** Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

7 “Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. **8** Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. **9** Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Reflection/Vision Statement Time

- We recommend taking about 4-5 minutes for people to reflect after the passage. But before you do, say something like:
 - “I encourage you to first take a couple minutes to reflect on this passage and the video, come up with any questions, connections, or what the passages says to you tonight.”

Questions for Discussion:

(Choose your favorites ahead of time that you think will benefit your group the most)

Question: What do you think the people of Israel are feeling/experiencing as they prepare to move into their next season? How has their history up to this point influenced that?

Observation: In the passage, God has provided both a spiritual blessing and practical resources in order for the Israelites to move forward into what he has called.

Question: What are the spiritual and practical resources that God gave the Israelites to move forward? What does he gift to us to do the same thing in our lives?

Question: (verse 7-8) Why do you think that God emphasizes engaging with scripture so heavily as the Israelites are about to enter the promised land? How is scripture key to victory and success for them?

Question: How have you found engaging with scripture to be a strategy for moving through times that required courage?

Observation: Israel had to address the problems of the past in order to move forward into their best fruitfulness.

Question: What is the next thing that God is personally calling you into? (Family, career, spiritual walk, academics, etc..)

Question: Can you identify a wound of the past that might inhibit you in this? What are your practical and spiritual strategies for finding peace in this?

***Observation:** Our church is stepping into a season of expanding our imprint, and stretching to grow past our current capacity. Our hope is to see fruitfulness in growing the kingdom of God like never before.

Question: Can you identify a personal fear about our church growing? What have you seen in the past that is informing this fear? What are your practical and spiritual strategies for finding peace in this?

Prayer:

(LIFE GROUP LEADERS): Pray for those who are struggling to break through barriers of fear and wounds of the past. Pray for individuals to display their best fruit in the days to come. Pray for our church as we move forward in this next season of growth.