

LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

LEADER'S STUDY

Lean into ways to really get to know one another as you meet this semester. Relationships are built on trust and trust is built in knowing one another. Sometimes it's helpful to share your stories with one another as a way to know who each other is. One helpful tool is sharing the story of how you grew up and came to faith, or how God has worked in your life. This can also be scary to be that transparent and vulnerable in a group. As a leader you can diffuse that fear by being the first to share and be transparent and vulnerable. You can show your group that it is safe. Consider giving one or 2 people a chance to share their story each week. Remember, really listen when people are sharing. Genuinely hear them. Listening is a key to loving others.

Reconciled to God:

The message of the Gospel is overwhelming. God's plan to reconcile us to Himself meant that Jesus, who never sinned would take the punishment for all the sin of the world from the beginning of time to the end, so that we could come back to God. So that we could have fellowship and relationship with Him. Through His grace God offers this freely. There is nothing we can do to earn it or deserve it. What then, can we do? What response is there to something this wonderful? His desire is that we would accept this gift and walk in deep intimate relationship with Him. News this wonderful has to be heard. As we walk with God and experience the overwhelming flood of His grace, He invites us to partner with Him and tell the whole world about this good news. Take some time this week and think about what God has done for you. How is He changing you? Who do you know that needs to hear this good news? What opportunities has God put in front of you today?

Some helpful scripture: Romans 10, Colossians 2, Matt 9:36-38
What other places in scripture speak this same truth?

How is God calling you to think and to live differently? How does this change your perspective today? How is God calling you to respond based on this scripture? Spend some time reading this whole chapter and meditating on it as you prepare for your meeting. Be willing to share this with your group and invite them to join you in sharing how God is asking them to respond to His word.

PREPARING BEFORE GROUP

PURPOSE: Life transformation through the Holy Spirit. He uses scripture and prayer to renew our minds and transform our lives!

PRAY: Pray for the people in your groups by name. Spend time asking the Holy Spirit to help you lead well as you meditate on key passages and seek to know God's heart.

PLAN: As you prepare for your group things to remember:

- Relationships are the primary way we glorify God. Healthy deep relationships that lead each other to know and follow Jesus are built on trust.
- Developing trust takes knowing each other. Spend time this first week getting to know each other.
- Consider activities that break the ice and encourage people to know and hear each other like (little known facts, a family story or a fun game like 2 truths and a lie)

A Culture of Inviting:

If your groups aren't full keep inviting people to join you. Encourage your groups to do the same. God wants to impact Hancock County through your group!

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INTENTIONAL BIBLE READING

READ 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

in the ESV or similar word-for-word translation.

READ AGAIN in the NLT to get a thought-for-thought perspective.

Or try retelling the story in your own words with your bibles closed, then look to see what you missed, changed, moved or left out.

(With larger portions of scripture, it's good for multiple people to read it aloud. Especially online, this helps people get used to using their voice)

Try to summarize the passage in your own words.

STUDY QUESTIONS

What is significant, surprising or confusing from these verses?

What did you discover or learn about God and His character from this passage?

**What have you learned or discovered about people from this passage?
Another way to ask is: How can people respond?**

What is reconciliation?

What is the goal of the gospel?

What is different now because of the gospel?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

How are you going to obey this passage?

What is your "I will" statement?
(Encourage everyone to steer clear of "we" or "us" or "Christians" statements)

With whom are you going to share what you have learned?
(This is a critical part of growth that is often overlooked. If we can share it with someone else it means we really understand it, it cements it in our own minds, it makes us accountable to the truth and it blesses the one who hears the it. Rom 10:17)

Based on this passage, what can we pray about and how should we pray?