

LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

Romans 3:23-28

LEADER'S STUDY

Start this week by getting to know one another and laying out what the culture of your group is. Read through the Lighthouse Group guidelines together and address any questions. If you are all starting out on the same page, people know what to expect. When expectations are clear it paves the way for clear open communication. Our love for God is seen in our love for one another.

God is Fair and Gracious:

Christianity is not fair.

Often times people object to following Christ on the grounds that Christianity is not fair. Some claim it is too narrow a view that Jesus is the only way to salvation. These are common thoughts that are worth holding up to scripture. God is not afraid of these questions. As you read through Romans 3 ask God to show you His character through the gospel. Develop personal questions and think through them based on the gospel described here. What does it mean to be freed from the penalty of my sins? What did it cost? What was the cost to me? Am I trying to pay for something that is free? Is God fair? Is there anything that I am trying to do to earn my salvation or justify myself? How is God merciful and fair at the same time? Do these questions make you a little uncomfortable? If they do it is OK and normal that we would feel that way. God wants us to trust Him by faith and faith comes from knowing him through His word. As you study with your group, don't hesitate to venture outside the verses listed above to help get some context. The entire chapter of Romans 3 is about God's justice, mercy and love.

Some helpful scripture: Jonah 4, Eph 2, Acts 13:38-39
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!

LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

Matthew 18:21-35

INTENTIONAL BIBLE READING

READ Romans 3:23-28

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 does it mean to be justified by Faith?

Are there things I am doing to be accepted by God, to earn His favor?

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?