

# LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

Hebrews 12:1-4, 14-15

## LEADER'S STUDY

### **The Heart Matters:**

There is a huge contrast between worldly wisdom and the wisdom of God. Worldly wisdom looks out for its own interests and protects itself. It is independent and autonomous. The wisdom of God hinges on knowing God, His character and His heart. It is humble and yields to God. The writer of Hebrews calls Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith. When we choose to follow Him, we are choosing to align ourselves with Him and in humility submit ourselves to His leadership. This means turning away from the ideology and the ways of the world. Aligning with God is more than just talking the talk. It's walking the walk. In this passage of scripture that action of walking is accomplished through keeping our eyes on Jesus. When we know Him and follow Him, it changes all of our relationships, our words and our actions. This totally changes what we are living for. Rather than living self-centered lives, Christ followers live for Him and their love for Him produces a genuine love for others.

What does this passages say about the character and heart of God? How does the wisdom of the world differ from that of God? How do the actions of Christ influence your heart and your actions? What parts of your life is God inviting you to align with Him? How has God changed you? Take some time to pray and listen to God as you think on His words. What would your life and relationships look like if you viewed others the way that God views you? Be willing to share areas that he is calling your to "follow Him" and make clear I statements about how you are going to align with Him.

Some helpful scripture: James 3:13-4:12, John 3:1-21, 1 Peter 5:5-7  
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.
- Share stories of how God is working in your heart and how you or others are taking steps of growth

### **A Culture of Going:**

The message of the Gospel is good news like no other. It literally gives life to the dead and it is available to everyone who would put their faith in Jesus and follow Him. When you have been given life through Jesus you want to tell everyone about Him. Pray for opportunities and boldness to share that good news with your world this week.

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## INTENTIONAL BIBLE READING

READ Hebrews 12:1-4, 14-15

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 things seem to be important to God?**

**What drives your obedience?**

**How does this suggest battling temptation and sin?**

## 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?**