

LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

Isaiah 55:1-11

LEADER'S STUDY

Real Hope:

In case you had not noticed, we live in a world that is constantly changing. It is unstable, untrustworthy and broken. Trying to predict the future today is a long shot at best and if you put all your hope on that outcome you are likely to be disappointed. Economies can crumble, jobs can come and go, success and wealth can disappear as quickly as it can come. Real hope that does not fail can only be found in the gospel. When we trust Christ as our savior and Lord we are placing all of our hope in His work on our behalf. Placing your hope in Jesus means forsaking your hope in the world, your own self leadership and even forsaking your hope in your own good works. That may sound strange, but to the degree that you are hoping your own good works will merit God's favor, you are rejecting Jesus complete work on your behalf. God's grace, His unmerited favor, is given to us freely and completely through Jesus life, death and resurrection. When we put all of our hope in that and follow Him we have hope that will never disappoint.

What does this passages say about the character and heart of God? How does the wisdom of the world differ from that of God? What does this passage communicate about the gospel? Where do you find Jesus between the lines of this scripture? 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 4:13-5:6, Luke 15:11-32, Colossians 3:1-11, Proverbs 3:1-18

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 Isaiah 55:1-11

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 this scripture seem to say about the gospel?

Where do you find Jesus between the lines of this scripture?

What other places in scripture affirm what this says?

What parts of this passage are challenging to your current way of thinking?

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?