

LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

1 John 4:7-21

LEADER'S STUDY

Restoring broken relationships:

Our own self leadership has broken the one relationship that was our purpose since creation. Sin separated us from right relationship from God and there is absolutely no work of ours that can fix it. The good news of the gospel is that through Jesus God did everything for us. We truly are saved by grace and grace alone. This grace that restored our relationship with God is the same grace that He gives us to restore our relationships with one another. It is because of His love for us that we can love, encourage and forgive one another. We can have joy and freedom in them. All of our relationships can and should be affected by that grace. These relationships with one another are not only for us to enjoy but also to help those who are still "enemies" of God discover the joy of restoration as well. As you read through this passage of scripture together as a group, take time to think deeply about the character of God and what He has done.

How does the gospel change your thinking? What was God's role in your salvation? What was yours? Why did He save you? What was your life like before and then after God saved you? How can you follow Him in obedience? 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: Genesis 3:22 Cor 5:16-21, 1 Peter 4:7-11, Luke 15:11-32, Rom 5:8-11
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.
- Greet everyone by name and make introductions to the rest of the group
- Take some time to get to know each other. If you haven't done it in your group before consider playing a short ice breaker game to get things started. This can go a long way to break the tension of a new environment
- Share stories of how God is working in your heart and how you or others are taking steps of growth

Be sure to review the guidelines for your group the first couple of weeks just so everyone is familiar with them. These will help everyone feel confident to engage in discussion

LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

1 John 4:7-21

INTENTIONAL BIBLE READING

READ 2 Corinthians 1 John 4:7-21

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 seems to be the main point of these verses?

How does the gospel change your thinking?

Why did God bring me to this scripture today?

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

What effect does this have on my relationships right now?

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?