

LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

Colossians 3:1-17

LEADER'S STUDY

Real hope for the future:

It is pretty easy to identify the things we hope for. We often hope because we are discontent. We hope for a certain outcome. We hope things will change. Sometimes because we are content, we hope they won't change. Ultimately Jesus points us to relationship with Him as the only real hope that satisfies. We experience joy, fulfillment, confidence and peace in relationship with Him. Even though we live in Him and He lives in us Jesus longs for the time when we will be with Him and we will know the glory of relationship that He has known with the Father and the Spirit from before creation. When you read together this week, really think about what your hope is in Christ and how that motivates you to live today.

How does this hope in Christ shape our behavior? How does it shape our relationships? How does it cause me to interact with the world? How does it affect the way I face and walk through trials? Are my relationships leading others to know God and His grace? How is God changing my thinking? Be willing to share areas that He is calling you to "follow Him" and make clear statements about how you are going to align with Him.

Some helpful scripture: Rev 7:9-12, 21:1-7, Isaiah 65: 17-29, John 17
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

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INTENTIONAL BIBLE READING

READ Psalm Colossians 3:1-17

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 this scripture 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?