

LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

Micah 7:7-10 & 18-20

LEADER'S STUDY

God is merciful and forgiving:

Mercy is not receiving what you deserve. God is merciful. He even describes Himself that way to the people of Israel in Exodus 34 when He passes in front of Moses "'Yahweh! The Lord! The God of compassion and mercy!" God is also gracious. Grace is receiving something you don't deserve. Through Jesus Christ we receive both mercy (forgiveness of our sins) and grace (Jesus gives us His perfect righteousness). This is the character of God. If that is who God is, He can be trusted. He is the one we should run to when we have sinned. Repentance is joyfully turning from our sin and following Jesus in obedience. God's kindness is intended to lead us to repent. The key to experiencing God's mercy and grace is Humility. When we humble ourselves in confession and repentance before God, He pours out mercy and grace on us like an endless waterfall. As you read this week ask God to open your eyes to the ways He has shown you mercy and grace.

As you study, ask yourself questions like this. How do I respond when I have sinned? When I repent do I believe I have already been forgiven or do I think I need to feel guilty or punish myself before God can accept me again? When the Holy Spirit convicts me of sin do I run to God? How do I respond when others have sinned against me? Do I really believe God has "cast all of my sins into the depths of the sea"? How is God inviting me to follow Him? How is God changing my thinking? Be willing to share areas that He is calling you to "follow Him" and make clear I statements about how you are going to align with Him.

Some helpful scripture: 2 Samuel:11&12, Psalm 51, Romans 5:1-11, 1 John 1:9
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
- Start thinking and talking about how God might multiply your group

As God is growing each of you in your group, start looking for opportunities to share the good news of God's forgiveness with those who are lost. Challenge your group to step out in faith and tell someone about Jesus this week. Pray with someone in need, meet someone's physical needs and introduce them to Jesus. As you have this kind of outward focus consider who might benefit from joining your group as you seek God in His word.

LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

Micah 7:7-10 & 18-20

INTENTIONAL BIBLE READING

READ Micah 7:7-10 & 18-20

Read Micah 7:7-10 & 18-20 in the ESV or similar word-for-word translation.

Read it again in the NLT to get a thought-for-thought perspective.

(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?