

LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

Acts 4:18-31

LEADER'S STUDY

God is Sovereign:

God's sovereignty is His absolute right to do all things according to His own good pleasure. He is in complete control of everything. This could be a frightening idea if you had an incorrect view of God. However because God is good, all that He does is good. Because He is unchanging, there is no worry that He will suddenly start doing things that are bad. Our understanding and view of God has a great effect on our actions. As you read in Acts 4 consider the actions of all the parties involved. What do their actions reveal about their belief about the character of God? Consider what your actions say about your belief in God. How do you view circumstances when they are; changing, difficult, confusing or tragic?

As you study, ask yourself questions like this. How do I respond when my circumstances are difficult? What do I believe about God's character? What does scripture say about His character? Are there differences in what I believe and what Scripture says? What response is God calling me to today based on His word? 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: Lamentations 3, Job 42:2, Isaiah 45:7-9, Colossians 1, Eph 1, Romans 8
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

How is God opening doors for the gospel for your group? This week share stories and opportunities for the gospel with each other. Make a plan to pray for opportunities to share the gospel this week then commit to acting on it. If we have experienced the grace and forgiveness of God we have to tell people about it. Plan on sharing stories next week about how you shared the gospel with someone in your life this week.

LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

Acts 4:18-31

INTENTIONAL BIBLE READING

READ Acts 4:18-31

Read Acts 4:18-31 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?

Consider the perspectives of all the parties involved in this passage. Ask yourself why they responded the way they did.

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?

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?