

LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

Luke 6:27-42

LEADER'S STUDY

God is our shepherd:

God has promised to shepherd or lead His people. He is the one who leaves the 99 sheep to go find the one who is lost. This is significant because we were the one who was lost. When you are found by God and He becomes your shepherd, you learn His voice, his character. You hear His voice and follow Him where he goes. His mission is clear. In Luke 19 Jesus says it like this. "For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost." If that is where He is going as His people, His sheep, we are actually called to shepherd and care for one another. Leading one another to the cross. Sharing the truth of the gospel with one another. Strengthening the weak with God's grace. Tending to the injured. Loving and seeking the lost. Even those who are opposed to you and even oppress you. That is the clear example of the gospel. To submit yourself to God's shepherding means to be changed. To give Him leadership over every part of your life. It means you begin to love those he loves. His mission becomes your own.

As you are reading ask yourself, how is God calling me to shepherd others? Who are my enemies? How do I feel about them? How do I feel about other people's sin? What do I feel about my own? What would it look like to submit myself to God's shepherding? Can I give Him access to every area of my life? 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: Ezekiel 34, Isaiah 53, John 10, Matthew 23, 1 Pet 5:2-4, Luke 19
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: Hopefully your group got off to a great start. As you meet in the coming weeks, if you haven't before consider giving a couple people each week, a chance to share their story of how God found them with the group. Sharing our stories of faith and growth builds trust within your group. As a leader, let your group know this is OK by being the first to share your story. It can really break the ice when you are willing to be real and vulnerable.

Consider taking some time to break into small groups for prayer. This is a way for people to feel more comfortable sharing personal needs and praying septically for one another.

Review the group guidelines together and let people know what the schedule will be and then stick to it. It's OK to allow for some social time before and after your group but make sure people know when you are starting and ending your study and prayer time together. Part of hospitality is being sensitive to everyone's time.

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INTENTIONAL BIBLE READING

READ Luke 6:27-42

Read 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 like this, 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 seems to be the main point of these verses?

What is significant, surprising or confusing from these verses?

How does this portion of scripture point to Jesus and the gospel?

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.

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?