

LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

Hebrews 12:1-4

LEADER'S STUDY

God's Promise for the Nations:

What Jesus suffered on our behalf is hard to imagine and impossible to know. He went willingly to the cross and accepted the punishment for all the sin of mankind at once. He was beaten, tortured, rejected, and killed. He received all of the things that we deserved and in turn He gave us all of the things that we did not. He gave us mercy, forgiveness, blessing, peace, joy and hope. He made us right with God and saved us by His grace. None of this was because of any work of our own. God freely forgave us because Jesus paid our debt. In fact Jesus considered it great joy to die for us because He loved us, even while we were opposed to Him. No greater thing has ever happened and this is the central message of the entire bible. God's gift of grace through Jesus has changed everything. What He did begs the question, how do I respond? Nothing I ever do could repay what He has done. How do you respond to something like that?

As you read and prepare for this week ask yourself, What did Jesus save me from? What did God forgive me for and how was Jesus punished in my place? How has God's grace changed my life? When I said yes to Jesus how did my life change? What change is the love and the grace of God calling me to? How does God's grace empower me to live today? What does this incredibly good news that God has forgiven me and blessed me through Jesus mean to me? What is God calling me to do with this good news? Who do I know that needs to hear this good news? How is God revealing Himself and his character through this scripture? How is God changing my thinking? How do I view others, and myself, differently because of the gospel? 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: Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Romans 4:5, 5:9, 8:32, Colossians 2:13, 2 Corinthians 4 & 5, 1 Peter 3:18

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:

Don't be afraid to ask your group what their hopes and expectations are for this semester. This could really help you to know more about the people you are with.

This week it might be good to spend some time getting to know each other. Building unity in your groups only comes when there is a level of trust. One of the best ways to build trust is by sharing your stories of how God is working in your lives. Don't force anyone to share but maybe consider going first and sharing some of your story. Someone has to lead the way and be vulnerable first. This is a way you can actively serve your group

INTENTIONAL BIBLE READING

READ Romans Hebrews 12:1-4

And meditate on it.

Read in the ESV or similar word-for-word translation.

Read it again in the NLT to get a thought-for-thought perspective. (The New Living Translation is particularly helpful with this passage)

Consider reading the whole chapter or even the whole letter before your meeting to help you understand the context.

Try to summarize the passage in your own words.

POTENTIAL STUDY QUESTIONS

These are just questions you might ask to help your group discussion. Don't feel like you need to answer all of these as a group

What is significant, surprising or confusing from these verses?

What seems to be the main point of 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?

What parts of this passage can you relate to?

Look at one or two key words and define them really clearly, then look at them in context with that definition. Does this change your understanding?

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 is God calling you to obey, based on this passage?

or

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?