

LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

Psalm 16

LEADER'S STUDY

The Joy of God's promise:

Those who turn to God for refuge, those who come to God as sinners in need of a savior, find not only forgiveness, but blessing and peace. They find freedom in dependence on God. Not only do they find eternal life, but they also find strength, confidence, and purpose in life. This kind of new life is only found through faith in Jesus. For the believer that encounters this truth there is only humility and joy. Joy that causes a response. Think about something you received that has brought you great joy. Think about your first response to it. There was likely a sense of profound gratitude followed by a desire to tell someone else about it. You see the natural response to overwhelming joy is to let it out. Joy can't be contained; it must be released. Even more so for the amazing, good news of the gospel. God keeps His promises. When we turn from self-leadership to God's leadership, when we accept the free gift that we could never earn and don't deserve, God gives us joy in salvation that is uncontainable. In fact, he doesn't want it to be contained. The normal and right response to the gospel is joy that leads us to worship and sharing that good news with the world.

As you read and prepare for this week ask yourself; What does it mean to take refuge in God? What has God blessed me with through Jesus? What does worship look like because of this good news? Do I have joy in knowing that I have received a gift I did not deserve through Jesus? How have I responded to that joy? How is my life different? What is God calling me to do with this joy? 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 59:12-21 , 2 Cor 4, Psalm 32:1-2, Psalm 103:12, Isaiah 43:25 & 38:17, Colossians 1 :21-22

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:

Take some time this week and think about how to pray with your groups. Sometimes this comes easy for a group and sometimes it seems like a challenge to engage in prayer together. Prayer is our declaration of faith and dependence on God. It breaks down barriers to the gospel and it aligns us with God's character.

Because of God's grace, we can pray bold prayers. We have access to God that comes only to His children through Jesus. As you pray together, build each other up with the truth of God's grace. Celebrate who He is and what He has done. Bring your requests to Him knowing that He is a father who takes great joy in providing for the needs of His children.

You might consider using shorter sentence prayers to help everyone engage. You might also consider splitting up into groups or praying together as men or women.

INTENTIONAL BIBLE READING

READ Psalm 16

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?