

# LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

2 Peter 1:3-21

## LEADER'S STUDY

### **When God speaks:**

God is speaking to us through the pages of scripture. There is no other book like it. It is the living active and life transforming words of God. It was inspired by sovereign God, and He used people to write it down. The entire bible is about one thing, **the gospel**. It is the central theme of scripture, and it is THE thing that God wants to communicate to us. The gospel is the good news of how Jesus saves us from our sin and makes us right with God. It is a message of complete dependence on Him. It's His desire that we would read His words like looking at a beautiful piece of art. The we would look at it intently, so that He would show us the depth and the beauty of who He is and what He has done. The gospel message is on every page and in every verse. All of it points to the perfect finished work of Jesus. When we look at it intently and seek to know Him, we are changed. When you read scripture let it have it's effect on you. Let it get down into the deepest, darkest parts of your heart and transform you. Let it overwhelm you until you break under its weight. Then let it overwhelm you more. The more it affects you, the more God begins to change your heart. Everything becomes realigned and the result is a deep love for Him and a love for others. A love that needs to share the good news and the grace of God with everyone. That love for God and love for others is the only thing that can drive real obedience. That is the reason and the resource for following Jesus. As you read scripture, humble yourself, ask God to speak to you and change your heart. Look for Jesus in every word. Ask Him to show you how it all points to Him. I am praying that you will God will open your eyes to the real message of His word and that it will overwhelm you.

As you read and prepare for this week ask yourself; How is God revealing the gospel to me through His word? Spend time just thinking about what the good news of the gospel means to you. How has this good news changed me? How is God inviting me to know him better? How is the Holy spirit changing my heart and my priorities? How does this change my heart towards other people? Are there people that I am resist loving? 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: 2 Timothy 3:16, Deut 6:4-9, Heb 1:1-2, Ps 119  
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 2 Peter 1:3-21

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 it. Rom 10:17)

**Based on this passage, what can we pray about and how should we pray?**