

5 | GROUP PRAYER

Rather than going around the group and sharing prayer requests, you might consider simply bowing your heads and taking turns praying for the things on your heart or that the Holy Spirit brings to mind.

NEXT STEPS AFTER GROUP

1 | SCRIPTURE FOCUSED

- Verse to Memorize: _____
- Other Passages to Read: _____

2 | PRAYER FOCUSED

- How can you pray for people in your group this week?
- Is the Holy Spirit speaking to you about something you need to repent of and turn over to Jesus?
- How are you going to respond to this truth and put it into action?

3 | OTHERS FOCUSED

- Did anyone in your group share a need that you might be gifted to help with?
- Consider inviting a friend from group to meet up for a meal or a hang out time.
- Is the Holy Spirit bringing someone to mind with whom you can share the things you've learned today?

GROUPS

STUDY GUIDE

Why Would I Prepare BEFORE My Lighthouse Group?

Reading, thinking, and praying about the primary passage your Lighthouse Group is studying ahead of time may be one of the most pivotal ways to make your Lighthouse Group discussions powerful and meaningful. When you do prepare beforehand, you're coming with thoughtful insights and ideas you've been wrestling through. That's different from grabbing at the most accessible thoughts in real time.

How Do I Prepare BEFORE My Lighthouse Group?

1 | PRAY

Ask God to open your eyes, mind, and spirit to His truth. Your desire is not to "get the right answer," but rather to know Him as He has revealed Himself so that you can trust and rely on Him more fully.

2 | READ

Read the main passage. Consider reading the same passage in multiple versions, like ESV, NIV, AMP, and NLT. All of these can be found at BibleGateway.com. For better context, read the paragraphs before and after the study passage as well.

3 | REFLECT

What does this passage teach you about God? Maybe something to praise Him for? Does this passage reveal an area of your life you should confess as sin to God? What does this passage lead you to ask God for? How does this passage point to Jesus work on the cross and out of the grave?

Think through some of the questions you'll be discussing during your Lighthouse Group time.

4 | WRITE

This is when you cross over from reading into study – writing down truth that you are discovering. Write down questions that come to mind as you are reading.

We've included space on the next page of this guide for you to write down insights, questions, and more that you can bring up in your Lighthouse Group discussion time.

PREP BEFORE GROUP

PRIMARY PASSAGE: Romans 8:1-11

WRITE YOUR INSIGHTS & QUESTIONS HERE:

ADDITIONAL CROSS-REFERENCES: Matthew 28; John 17:3; Acts 2:24-33;
Romans 1:1-15, 6:4; 1 Corinthians 6:14, 15:12-57

DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of: April 21-27

1 | **PRAY:** Ask the Holy Spirit to lead your group in truth and spiritual growth.

2 | **READ Romans 8:1-11**

One volunteer reads the passage in the ESV or NIV. Another volunteer reads the passage in AMP or NLT.

3 | **CONSIDER SITUATIONAL/HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

Sin and death affect all of humanity. Every person is sinful, and all will die as a result. When God created us, it was with the intention that we live forever. But apart from Christ, our spirits are dead—that is, eternally separated from God—whether our bodies are alive or not. In John 17:3, Jesus stated, “This is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God.” Knowing God is much more than just intellectual knowledge. It’s complete restoration of the intimate relationship with God that He created us to enjoy.

When Jesus defeated sin and death by his death on the cross and his resurrection, He created a way back to the Father and a way back to eternal life. This free gift of salvation is radically inclusive, at it’s available to *all* of humanity. It is also radically exclusive because the *only* way to have eternal life is through faith in Jesus. All of us need Jesus, and thanks be to God, He offers himself to us all, and will bring both our spirits and our bodies back to life.

4 | **DISCUSSION**

CONTENT QUESTIONS

1. In verse 10, what is the result of sin?
2. How have we been made right with God (vs. 1-4)?
3. In verse 11, what central truth and reason for our hope is exposed?

TRUTH QUESTIONS

1. Is death a normal part of life? Why or why not?
2. What is Jesus’ resurrected body like, and do you believe God will give you a body like that?
3. What is eternal life, and why is belief in Jesus’ resurrection the only way?

APPLICATION/PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. Do you really believe in Jesus’ resurrection? How do you know He lives?
2. When you share the good news, are you both radically inclusive in your invitations, and exclusive in explaining that Jesus is the only way?
3. Spend time meditating on our hope of eternal life, resurrection bodies, and a new heavens and new earth. How does it change the way you live?