

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?

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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 4:1-8

WRITE YOUR INSIGHTS & QUESTIONS HERE:

ADDITIONAL CROSS-REFERENCES: Genesis 15:1-6; Psalm 32:1-2; John 6:29; Romans 1:16-17; Galatians 3:10-14; Philippians 3:1-11

DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of: April 28 – May 4, 2025

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

2 | READ Romans 4:1-8

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

3 | CONSIDER SITUATIONAL/HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Paul had never been to Rome at the time he wrote this letter, but he hoped to one day visit in order to strengthen the church there, and to share the gospel with those who hadn't yet had the opportunity to hear it. Before he made the trip, he wanted to make sure the people in the church there understood exactly what the Christian faith was all about. Therefore, some of the clearest explanations of the gospel in all the Bible are in this letter.

In this passage, Paul wants the reader to understand that Christianity is less about what we DO than what we BELIEVE. When we believe the truth, we'll do the truth. But we can do all the right things without ever putting our faith in the life-transforming work of Jesus. That sort of empty religion gives a false hope of redemption but does nothing to cure our separation from God.

4 | DISCUSSION

CONTENT QUESTIONS

1. People from most faith traditions are familiar with Abraham. Is he usually considered to have been on good footing with God?
2. Was he called righteous because he did more good things than bad?
3. What kind of people does God justify when they believe in Him, v. 5?

TRUTH QUESTIONS

1. Is it possible for a person to stand before God without having any of their sin counted against them? How can we know this?
2. What are the differences between earning a wage and receiving a gift?
3. Can God fully forgive all my sin, no matter how much I've messed up? How can I know I'm forgiven, with no strings attached?

APPLICATION/PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. Do I feel like God owes me something when I act righteously?
2. For what reason do people give gifts? Why does God give us gifts?
3. Think of some of the times you've let God down. If you've put your faith in Jesus, thank God for forgiving you. If you haven't, what's holding you back?