

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 6:19-23

WRITE YOUR INSIGHTS & QUESTIONS HERE:

ADDITIONAL CROSS-REFERENCES: Psalm 135:15-18; Isaiah 40:9-22; Acts 17:22-31; Romans 1:18-23; Ephesians 4:17-24

DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of: May 5-11, 2025

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

2 | READ Romans 6:19-23

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

3 | CONSIDER SITUATIONAL/HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The people to whom Paul wrote had put their faith in Jesus, but their understanding was imperfect—as ours is today. When we trust in Jesus’ sacrifice on our behalf, our sin is forgiven and we stand righteous before God (some call this *positional* righteousness). We’re “saved” by faith, but this doesn’t make our lives instantly holy; we don’t yet have *practical* righteousness. We want to please God but don’t always know how, especially when we first come to faith.

Paul writes to help believers understand what God sees as sin. When we’re “born again” by God’s grace through faith in Jesus, we undergo a fundamental transformation. Our allegiances transfer from the world and its ways, to God and His righteousness. The separation between our old lives and the new is as clear, and as consequential, as the divide between death and life.

4 | DISCUSSION

CONTENT QUESTIONS

1. What does Paul mean about us being weak in our natural selves?
2. In what ways do unbelievers offer themselves as slaves to impurity? What does it mean to offer my body in slavery to God’s righteousness?
3. What is the result of serving as sin’s slave? Of accepting the gift of salvation that God wants to give us?

TRUTH QUESTIONS

1. Are there really only two choices, slavery to sin or slavery to righteousness? Can’t I just be my own free person, a slave to no one?
2. What *is* sin, anyway?
3. When we say a person is “saved,” what are they saved from?

APPLICATION/PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. What gut feeling wells up within me when I hear the word “slavery”?
2. What in my life do I feel I am truly the master of? In what areas do I most feel as if I have no control? Who *does* control my life?
3. Challenge: think of some of the ways I’ve rejected God’s authority and done my own thing. Why should I not be held accountable for that?