

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 11:33-36

WRITE YOUR INSIGHTS & QUESTIONS HERE:

ADDITIONAL CROSS-REFERENCES: Psalm 102:25-27; Isaiah 55: 6-9; Nahum 1:2-6; Romans 3:1-8; 1 Corinthians 1:4-9; 2 Timothy 2:13

DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of: May 19-25

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

2 | **READ Romans 11:33-36**

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

3 | **CONSIDER SITUATIONAL/HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

In this passage, Paul concludes a complex explanation on how God has mercy on both his chosen people, Israel, and on Gentiles as well. Paul sums up the mystery of God's sovereignty and the free will He has given to humanity. It may appear as if God keeps changing His mind by first choosing Israel, then rejecting them, then making plans to accept them again in the future once He has also made room for the Gentiles.

However, God has never changed and never will change. It is humanity who keeps changing their minds about Him. God is always faithful, always sovereign, always righteous, always just. He uses even our changefulness to bring about more of His glory and grace. It's no wonder Paul erupts in praise for who God is and all that He has done and will do.

4 | **DISCUSSION**

CONTENT QUESTIONS

1. Is there anything about God that we can fully understand (vs 33)?
2. What attitude is expressed in verses 34-35?
3. In verse 36, who is God in relation to the universe?

TRUTH QUESTIONS

1. Our ability to rationalize our own sin does not diminish God's wrath against sin. This also means that when God justifies a person through faith in Christ, He does not change His mind. Does this challenge ways that you think about yourself or God?
2. If God is unchanging what does that mean about our relationship to Him?
3. What has God revealed about Himself? And why has He revealed Himself? Why did He create us?

APPLICATION/PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. Do you have doubts about who God is, and if so, have you allowed yourself to humbly search for answers?
2. If God is unchanging in holiness, and we are sinful and powerless to change ourselves, how can we hope to grow closer to Him?
3. Have you ever tried to give God advice, or tried to pay Him back? How is the unchanging nature of God inviting you to respond today?