

## 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](http://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 12:1-5

WRITE YOUR INSIGHTS & QUESTIONS HERE:

ADDITIONAL CROSS-REFERENCES: Matthew 5:17; Romans 3:21-31; 8:1-11; 1 Corinthians 6:7-20; Galatians 3:11; Titus 2:11-14

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of: June 9-15

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

2 | **READ Romans 12:1-5**

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 light of all that God has done throughout history to bring us to salvation, Paul here pleads with all believers to offer ourselves completely to God as living sacrifices— that is, to submit our wills to His. This is not for super-believers. It's not "above and beyond" the normal Christian life. It's simply the joyful, grateful response to the free gift of salvation God has so generously given us. Once we know Him, we come to realize that His will for us is better than anything we could imagine. A right relationship with God gives us a right view of ourselves and others. We will not only allow, but ask God to transform us from the inside-out, to change the way we think as well as the way we act. When all God's people respond in this way, we'll experience wonderful unity in the body of Christ. The old life is gone, the new has come! Who wouldn't want that?

4 | **DISCUSSION**

## CONTENT QUESTIONS

1. According to verse 1, why should we give ourselves to God?
2. What is a living sacrifice, and are there other examples of living sacrifices in the Bible?
3. How does Paul describe God's will for us?

## TRUTH QUESTIONS

1. In the Old Testament, what is more foundational: faith, or the law? Why?
2. What is God's will for us?
3. What are the marks of a body of believers who are being transformed by God?

## APPLICATION/PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. How does God want to change the way that I think about Him?
2. How does God want to make me more like Jesus today?
3. What in my heart is holding me back from allowing God to change me?