

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: John 8:31-41

WRITE YOUR INSIGHTS & QUESTIONS HERE:

ADDITIONAL CROSS-REFERENCES: Genesis 15:1-6; Matthew 12:46-50; John 8:12-30, 42-59; 15:14-16; Galatians 4:28-31.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of: October 6-12, 2025

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

2 | **READ** John 8:31-41

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 we read a conversation between Jesus and people who believed he was the Messiah of God (v. 31). He told them if they stuck with him, the truth he taught would set them free. But they didn't understand why they needed to be set free. Set free from what?

They considered themselves already on good footing with God because they were Jews, children of Abraham. They trusted in their birth and breeding. But Jesus said that amounted to nothing. They were as enslaved to sin and death as the Gentiles were, outside of the family of God. This was a shocking insult to them, and they wanted to put a stop to that kind of crazy talk.

No matter who we are and whatever our religious or ethnic background, until we say "Yes" to Jesus as Forgiver and Redeemer, we're outside of His family.

4 | **DISCUSSION**

CONTENT QUESTIONS

1. In what did the people Jesus was speaking to put their faith?
2. When Jesus spoke of being "set free," what did he mean? What would his hearers be set free from? Is the same true for us today?
3. Who was Jesus saying was their true father (see v. 44)? Why did he say that?

TRUTH QUESTIONS

1. How does believing, acting upon, and remaining faithful to Jesus' teachings enable us to know the truth?
2. What did Jesus say Abraham did when he heard the truth from God?
3. Is it possible to believe the Bible is true, but not put your faith in Jesus?

APPLICATION/PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. In what do I put my confidence in this world? For my eternity?
2. What do you do when you hear or read the truth of God from His word?
3. Do I have a permanent place in God's family? Why or why not? How can I know?