

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.

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.

PREP BEFORE GROUP

PRIMARY PASSAGE: Matthew 13:1-23

WRITE YOUR INSIGHTS & QUESTIONS HERE:

PARALLEL PASSAGES: Mark 4:1-22; Luke 8:4-15

ADDITIONAL CROSS-REFERENCES: Isaiah 6:9-10; Jeremiah 5:20-23; Ezekiel 12:2; 1 Corinthians 2:1-10; 2 Corinthians 4:1-7

DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of: October 13-19, 2025

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

2 | READ Matthew 13:1-23

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

3 | CONSIDER SITUATIONAL/HISTORICAL CONTEXT

In vv. 1-9, Jesus is speaking to a large, mixed crowd of people, but the disciples are a little confused. Why is He speaking in parables instead of giving them plain teaching? And what was that parable about, with the farmer scattering his seed in the field?

In vv. 10-23, Jesus answers their questions. Because the explanations are recorded in the Scripture, we know these answers for all who follow Jesus, both then and now. When Jesus tells a parable, He also tells us how we can understand what the story is intended to illustrate: ask Him!

4 | DISCUSSION

CONTENT QUESTIONS

1. Retell the parable (vv. 3-9) in your own words.
2. What reason did Jesus give the disciples for why He taught in parables?
3. In His explanation, what did He say the various elements of the parable were intended to represent?

TRUTH QUESTIONS

1. What's this "kingdom" Jesus mentions in vv. 11 & 18? Where else in the gospels does He talk about it? Is this an important theme in the Bible?
2. Who does the person sowing the seed represent? Is this something every follower of Jesus can do? Is expected to do?
3. In vv. 11-17, Jesus said that historically, most of Israel was blind and deaf to God, but the disciples were blessed to see, hear, and understand. What gives a person this kind of comprehension?

APPLICATION/PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. Do I ask Jesus and the Holy Spirit to give me understanding of God's word, or do I try to figure it out for myself?
2. If I'm in Christ's kingdom, do I allow Him to use me to scatter the "gospel seed" wherever I go? If I'm not in His kingdom, do I want to be? How can I enter it?
3. How would I explain the gospel to someone who asked?