

COMMUNITY GROUP LEADER GUIDE

For the week of February 13, 2022

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing & leading your group in discussion

LEADER NOTES

MEETING NOTES

⇒ DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS

- Remember you don't have to answer every question!
- Choose questions best suited to your group.

⇒ PRAYER

- Take prayer requests.
- If you haven't divided into male/female groups already, you may want to do so for prayer.

⇒ ATTENDANCE

Submit your group's attendance online to the email sent to you

⇒ EGR PODCAST

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/6pYt07NnscRCjP4m8AMGix?si=fLgAT4QSS2Ga192z39EpHw>

MY STORY

1

All of us desire to have a few people who not only know about us, but also know, love, and accept us for who we are really are. There are a variety of reasons that cause this to happen. List as many you can think of.

How might your answers to the above question be similar to what it takes to know God and not just know "about" God?

2

The more time we spend with someone, the better we get to know them. For example, if we listed the character qualities of those closest to us, chances are you would be able to think back on your time with them and see how your understanding of who they are has grown. The same is true in how we grow in knowing God. As you look at the characteristics of God below, which, if any, have you seen grow or change in your own understanding and appreciation of who God is?

- Love
- Kindness
- Justice
- Grace
- Forgiveness
- Other: _____

Additional Question: *Is there a time in your life where you have clearly seen the hand of God at work?*

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

How would you describe your own awareness of God's power in our world? (select any that apply)

- 1
 - I'm always thinking about it
 - I need to be reminded
 - I experience it often
 - I experience it on occasion
 - I don't understand it It gives me confidence
 - Other

2 It can be hard to know how set apart to be and what that even looks like. How do the following verses help someone know what it looks like to be set apart in their daily life?

Galatians 5:13-14 *New International Version (NIV)* **13** You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. **14** For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

1 Corinthians 10:23-24 *New International Version (NIV)* **23** You say, "I am allowed to do anything"^[a]—but not everything is good for you. You say, "I am allowed to do anything"—but not everything is beneficial. **24** Don't be concerned for your own good but for the good of others.

Romans 14:19-23 *New International Version (NIV)* **19** Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. **20** Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a person to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. **21** It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall. **22** So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves. **23** But whoever has doubts is condemned if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.

Additional Questions – When do you find it easiest to forget that your life is not yours, but God's?
– What helps remind you that your life is God's and not your own?

TAKING IT HOME

1

We saw in this week's sermon that we have to be on good terms to have healthy communication with God. Unfortunately, like any relationship, there can be roadblocks that we may or may not be aware of that erode and even cut off our prayer and communication with God. What potential roadblocks do the following verses describe?

Proverbs 21:13 *New International Version (NIV)* If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered.

Matthew 5:23-24 *New International Version (NIV)* "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, [24] leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

Mark 11:25 *New International Version (NIV)* And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

James 4:3-4 *New International Version (NIV)* When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. [4] You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

1 John 5:14 *New International Version (NIV)* This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

Is there one that you think people tend to forget more than others? Which one is most important for you to hear?

2

For the next several weeks, we will be discussing the topic of prayer. What is one big question or thought you have about prayer that you are willing to share with the group?

PRAYER REQUESTS

Discussion Note: We recommend that if your group is coed, that you split into men's only and women's only groups for prayer on a regular basis. This allows you to pray for additional requests that may not come up in the main meeting.

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