

Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

Trusting God

- In Isaiah 36 Judah found themselves in a very difficult situation. Why would it have been hard to trust God in those circumstances?
- Do you have a harder time trusting God in the major trials of your life or in relatively minor things? Explain why you think this is the case.
- Do you think Christians struggle more with questions and uncertainties in the midst of adversity than nonbelievers? Why or why not?
 - **Read the following quote from Dr. Jerry Bridges to help answer this question.** “The circumstances we find ourselves in often defy explanation. When unexpected situations arise that appear unjust, irrational, or even dreadful, we feel confused and frustrated. And before long, we begin to doubt God’s concern for us or His control over our lives. Difficulties are hard to endure and can be even harder to understand.”
- **According to Proverbs 27:1**, what should be our perspective on the future? How does this affect our need to trust God?
- God desires that we learn to trust Him. What do you learn about trust from these verses?
 - Psalm 32:10
 - Proverbs 3:5
 - John 14:1
- What is the difference between trusting God and obeying him?
 - How are trusting God and obedience related?
 - Is it easier for you to trust God or to be obedient? Explain why.

- Describe a time when trusting God made it easier to be obedient.
- What is God's providence?
- What do the following verses say about God's providence?
 - Psalm 31:15
 - Psalm 147:8-9
 - Acts 17:24-28
 - 2 Cor. 9:10
- What specific evidence of God's sustaining presence in the universe is most dramatic to you?
- In what ways do people see God's providence as limited?
- In what ways do you act as though God's providence is limited even though you may believe that it isn't?
- Restate Matthew 10:29-31 in your own words.
- Think about a person who sees chance or randomness as the explanation for all that happens. How would this philosophy affect his or her life?
 - What would such a person value?
 - How does Matthew 10:29-31 refute such a perspective?
- There is an invisible war being waged between God and Satan, and our lives are often the battleground. What do the following passages say about Satan's ability to touch us?
 - Job 1:12, 2:6
 - Luke 22:31-32
- Are there any past or present events in your life that tempted you to doubt God's wisdom? If so, what are they?
- What is the ultimate purpose of all things according to Romans 11:36 and 1 Corinthians 10:31?
 - What does it mean to glorify God?
 - In what ways do you think your present circumstances bring glory to God?

- What attitude is expressed in Job 42:1-3 and Psalms 131:1?
- What happens when we let go of our questions and trust God?
- What is the balance of trusting God and living wisely? How do these 2 things go together?
- **Read Romans 5:3-5 and James 1:2-4.** What should our attitude be in the midst of adversity, and why?
 - How did Jesus maintain this attitude according to Hebrews 12:2?
 - How can we cultivate this same attitude?
- Have you ever been drawn to God's word in times of adversity? Why or why not?
- What portions of Scripture have become especially important to you during trying times?
- What is the connection between adversity (or discipline) and holiness, as expressed in Hebrews 12:10?
- Why does suffering deepen the fellowship between believers?
- Describe a time when you experienced deeper fellowship through suffering.