

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

- Read Psalm 56:3-4 and 1 Samuel 21:10-15, which is the historical setting for the psalm.
 - What emotions was David experiencing at the time he wrote this Psalm (1 Samuel 21:10-12)?
 - How much trust in God did David show in 1 Samuel 21:13? Why do you think this?
 - When David chose to trust God, how did his feelings change (Psalm 56:3-4)?
 - Tradition says that Psalm 34 was written shortly after Psalm 56, after the crisis was over. How do you explain the relationship between David’s statements in Psalm 56:4 and Psalm 34:4?
- Have you had an experience in which you chose to trust God despite your emotions? If so, what happened to your emotions after you decided to trust God?
 - Why do you think emotions work that way?
- Why is God worthy of your wholehearted trust?
 - Is it possible for us to be worthy of His trust? Explain.
- What attitude did Job express in Job 23:8-10?
- In times of distress we must be careful that our feelings do not mislead us. Do Job’s feelings contradict the truth of Hebrews 13:5? Why or why not?

- **Read 1 Peter 5:7.** Is learning to trust God and cast our anxieties on Him something we get better at? If so, how? If not, why not?
- Do you tend to forget to trust God when things are going well? Explain.
- In what ways do we need to trust God in good times?
- What contrast is made in Proverbs 18:10-11?
- Do you get your sense of security from your achievements and possessions or from the Lord? How do your actions reflect this?
- What does God promise us in Psalm 50:15?
 - What do we need to do after God answers our call, according to this verse?
 - In what specific ways might you do this?
- How would you explain to an unbeliever why you choose to trust God?
- According to Acts 17:24-25 and 1 Corinthians 4:7, why should we be thankful?
- Do you have a thankful attitude toward God most of the time, not often enough, or rarely? Explain.
- What does Romans 8:28 say about God working in our lives?
- How does Romans 8:28 help us fulfill 1 Thessalonians 5:18?
- What was Job's reaction to the loss of his children and property? Read Job 1:13-21?
- Read 2 Corinthians 12:7. Why was Paul given a "thorn in the flesh"?
- Has God ever used an adversity in your life to counteract your pride? If so, describe the situation.
- Why does God cherish humility in us (James 4:6)?
- How does humility help us deal with mistreatment from other people?
- Do you have a hard time forgiving others? Explain.
- What sort of attitude is pleasing to God when we pray for deliverance from some adversity?

- **Look at Isaiah 42:8.** How can your actions better show that glorifying God is your top priority?

Almighty and most merciful Father, creator and preserver of mankind, look down with pity upon my troubles and maladies. Heal my body, strengthen my mind, compose my distraction, calm my inquietude, and relieve my terrors; that if it please you, I may run the race that is set before me with peace, patience, constancy, and confidence. Grant this, O Lord, and take not from me your Holy Spirit, but pardon and bless me, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. – **Samuel Johnson**