

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: Colossians 2:8-15

WRITE YOUR INSIGHTS & QUESTIONS HERE:

ADDITIONAL CROSS-REFERENCES: Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 19:1-5;
Romans 6:1-5; Colossians 3:1-4; 2:20-23; 1 Peter 3:20-21

DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of: September 30-October 6

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

2 | **READ Colossians 2:8-15**

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 letter to the church in Colossae, Paul encourages believers to understand Christ's supremacy over all things, both physical and spiritual. He reminds us that salvation is a gift from God that we receive through faith in Christ alone, and there's nothing we can do to earn it.

Paul points to the old Jewish customs of circumcision and baptism, not as works we must perform in order to be saved, but as illustrations of the literal death and resurrection of Jesus. These acts picture the removal of the old habit of trusting in ourselves--the death of our sinful nature and being raised to new life in Christ. All this is accomplished as we trust in the mighty power of God.

4 | **DISCUSSION**

CONTENT QUESTIONS

1. What dangers does Paul warn the Colossians against?
2. If we are complete in Christ, what remains for us to do for ourselves?
3. How does baptism illustrate what happens when we believe in Jesus?

TRUTH QUESTIONS

1. Is there any part of our own character or works that saves us?
2. In Colossians 2:23, why do man-made rules that require self-denial still provide no help in conquering our evil desires...what are our evil desires?
3. Why does Jesus command all believers to be baptized?

APPLICATION/PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. When was the last time you failed to trust in God's mighty power, and have you confessed this to Him and received His forgiveness? (This is very personal yet important question to ask yourself, share only as you feel comfortable with your group, not out of obligation.)
2. How can you take time this week to thank God for canceling the record of charges written against you?
3. Have you been baptized?