

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: Psalm 13

WRITE YOUR INSIGHTS & QUESTIONS HERE:

ADDITIONAL CROSS-REFERENCES: Psalm 6; Isaiah 25:9; 38:15-19; Lamentations 3:19-24; Habakkuk 3:1-19

DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of: September 23-29

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

2 | READ PSALM 13

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

3 | CONSIDER SITUATIONAL/HISTORICAL CONTEXT

David wrote this psalm about 1000 years before the birth of his most famous descendant, Jesus. David knew God's promises (that he himself would be king of Israel, and that eventually his Son would one day rule and reign forever). For now, though, the present King Saul was hunting him down to kill him. It was a very hard life! But through it all, David never stopped believing God's word.

You and I can count on God's word too. It tells us that Jesus has paid the price for all our sin, so that when we put our faith in his work of redemption, we have full forgiveness and will live forever with our Savior. Life can be hard, but we know the end of the story!

4 | DISCUSSION

CONTENT QUESTIONS

1. When David asks "how long" in vv. 1-2, what is he waiting for?
2. What might have been his wrestling/struggle/concerns (depending on the version) in v. 2?
3. In vv. 5-6, why is he able to rejoice? Has his situation changed suddenly?

TRUTH QUESTIONS

1. When we're having difficulties, does God expect us to just tough it out and pretend everything's fine? Or does He invite us to bring our concerns to Him?
2. When things aren't working out the way we think they should, does it make sense to quit trusting God and move on to Plan B?
3. Is God's character reliable (v. 5)?

APPLICATION/PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever asked God how long you'll have to endure an unendurable situation? Did He answer you? If so, how?
2. Is it possible to rejoice in God's salvation if we don't feel saved?
3. Is the Holy Spirit urging you to relax your struggling and trust Him in a particular situation today?