

## 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](http://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 131

WRITE YOUR INSIGHTS & QUESTIONS HERE:

ADDITIONAL CROSS-REFERENCES: Proverbs 3:5-6; Matthew 5:3-9; 7:7-11; 18:1-6; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 9:46-48.

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of: October 28-November 3

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

2 | **READ PSALM 131**

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 for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem. How easy would it be to enter such a royal, bustling city with all your hopes placed on its powerful government, its successful businesses, and in your own ability to make plans and influence people? This psalm puts all of that in check: we are as children in God's eyes, and He is our only hope. Power, riches and wisdom all come from Him, yes, but we would still be completely hopeless if we had all these things but lacked a relationship with God Himself.

Jesus came to restore us to perfect relationship with God. He welcomes children, and teaches us to come to God with that same childlike dependence. Our feeble attempts to earn His favor are utterly useless. Instead, we can rest in His love like a little child on its mother's lap.

4 | **DISCUSSION**

## CONTENT QUESTIONS

1. For what purpose did David write this psalm?
2. What virtues and characteristics does a weaned child have?
3. What kind of relationship with God is David encouraging Israel to have?

## TRUTH QUESTIONS

1. Why is a child comforted by close proximity to its mother? Is it possible to have that same kind of relationship with God?
2. What role do parents play in revealing God's character to their children?
3. Is it possible to grow in faith if we ignore or shut out younger generations?

## APPLICATION/PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. Have you chosen to trust God's character and wisdom even though you don't understand everything He does?
2. What can we learn about faith in God from our children, and how will we learn from them?
3. How can you show Jesus' love to children in your family, in your church, in your community?