

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: Galatians 3:26-4:7

WRITE YOUR INSIGHTS & QUESTIONS HERE:

ADDITIONAL CROSS-REFERENCES: John 1:9-14; Romans 8:12-17; Ephesians 1:4-6; Hebrews 2:10-15; 1 John 2:38-3:3.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of: November 18-24

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

2 | **READ Galatians 3:26 through 4:7**

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

3 | **CONSIDER SITUATIONAL/HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

Paul wrote to believers who were confused about whether or not Gentiles had to become Jews in order to follow Christ. He explained that it isn't necessary that anyone (even Jews) follow the traditional law any longer, because Jesus himself fulfilled it perfectly for us.

Now, as in Paul's day, whether I'm Jewish or Gentile (or young or old, or rich or poor, wherever I live, and whatever my racial or cultural background), I only have to accept the work he has done on my behalf in order to be accepted by God as His own beloved child.

4 | **DISCUSSION**

CONTENT QUESTIONS

1. In 3:26-29, what reality does Paul speak of so confidently? To whom is he speaking, v. 27? Upon what one condition does this reality depend, v. 29?
2. In Paul's world, how did the life of a child compare to the life of a slave? At what point in the child's life would the similarities end?
3. What does God give to His children that someone outside of His family could never have, 4:6?

TRUTH QUESTIONS

1. Paul knows little-to-nothing about the personal lives of the people he's writing to, so how can he speak so confidently about their position in Christ?
2. The slavery Paul referred to doesn't exist in our culture today. Can you think of a present-day illustration for the truth Paul teaches here?
3. Why did the Jews who followed the law still need to be redeemed?

APPLICATION/PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. Am I comfortable going to God as my loving, all-sufficient Father? Why or why not?
2. Why does Paul say baptism in Christ is like being clothed with him? Can a person be baptized but not "clothed" with Christ?
3. What does it mean to be an heir in God's family?