

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: Isaiah 53

WRITE YOUR INSIGHTS & QUESTIONS HERE:

ADDITIONAL CROSS-REFERENCES: Psalm 51; Romans 5:1; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 1:18.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of: November 11-17

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

2 | **READ Isaiah 53**

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

3 | **CONSIDER SITUATIONAL/HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

Isaiah prophesied about the promised Messiah and His purpose to restore all people to right relationship with God through His substitutionary sacrifice.

The way of God's kingdom turns the ways of this world upside down. Every other major religion attempts a right relationship with God through self effort, or focuses on fulfillment in this world (family, wealth, power and fame). Jesus demonstrated that true righteousness requires utter dependence on God, and complete obedience. He gave up everything—even, when he paid the penalty for our sin on the cross, his own right relationship with God—so that we might have the relationship with God we were created to enjoy.

4 | **DISCUSSION**

CONTENT QUESTIONS

1. List all of the ways Jesus suffered as described in this chapter.
2. Discuss the contrast between Jesus' life in v. 8 and v. 10.
3. Who and/or what is Jesus' reward for all of his suffering?

TRUTH QUESTIONS

1. Who is most offended/affected every time we sin?
2. In this chapter, what does sin look like, and what does righteousness look like?
3. Are the rewards of righteousness more likely to be seen on earth or in heaven?

APPLICATION/PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. Do you live like you believe that Jesus carried *your* sorrows, sicknesses and sins?
2. Do you believe God loves you and gives you Jesus' right relationship freely, or do you think there's a "catch" to all this?
3. Take time to enjoy your relationship with God this week. Glory in His grace!