

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: Hebrews 12:18-24

WRITE YOUR INSIGHTS & QUESTIONS HERE:

ADDITIONAL CROSS-REFERENCES: Genesis 4:10; Exodus 19:10-13; 33:7-11; Isaiah 24:19-23; 1 Timothy 2:3-7; Hebrews 4:14-16; 10:18-25.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of: January 27 - February 2, 2025

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

2 | **READ Hebrews 12:18-24**

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

3 | **CONSIDER SITUATIONAL/HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

The letter of Hebrews was written to encourage Jews who believed Jesus was their Messiah to let go of the old religious traditions they had been taught from childhood, and to follow Him into a new life. In vv. 18-21, the writer reminded his audience about how the Mosaic Law was given to Israel on the mountain in the wilderness with fearful pomp and circumstance. He then goes on to say that what we are dealing with now is completely new. We are no longer condemned by every jot and tittle of the Law, for Jesus has already fulfilled it perfectly on our behalf. And He personally made one, Law-prescribed perfect sacrifice for all of our sins, making us righteous before God once and for all. There is nothing left for us to do but follow Him wherever He leads.

4 | **DISCUSSION**

CONTENT QUESTIONS

1. What was the significance of God giving the Law in the way described in vv. 18-21?
2. How does the heavenly Mount Zion (Jerusalem) differ from the earthly?
3. What is “the church of the firstborn,” v. 23?

TRUTH QUESTIONS

1. Why was the old covenant necessary before the new covenant could be introduced?
2. Genesis 4:10 says the blood of Abel cries out from the ground (see Genesis 4:1-16). What does the blood of Abel say?
3. Jesus’ blood was also unjustly spilt. Why does it speak a better word than Abel’s?

APPLICATION/PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. Do I find it easier to follow the culture and traditions I grew up with than to trust Jesus?
2. How often am I aware that I need a mediator between me and God?
3. What does it look like to be a citizen of God’s city, today, in my life?