

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: Matthew 7:24-29

WRITE YOUR INSIGHTS & QUESTIONS HERE:

ADDITIONAL CROSS-REFERENCES: Matthew 22:29; Mark 7:5-14; Luke 24:27; John 5:39-40; Acts 8:32-35; 1 Timothy 4:13; 2 Timothy 2:15

DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of: February 24-March 2

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

2 | **READ** Matthew 7:24-29

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

3 | **CONSIDER SITUATIONAL/HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

In this passage, Jesus is concluding his “sermon on the mount” teachings. In these teachings, one of the things he does is to sort of “raise the bar” on many of the laws God gave that the Jews would have been familiar with. He is not actually changing the law, but explaining the heart of the law as God intended it to be followed, and thus showing how truly impossible it is to be perfect apart from His salvation.

He explains that he did not come to abolish the law but to fulfill it, that is, to accomplish its purpose. God gave the law as a way for us to know Him and be in right relationship with Him, but we could not do it on our own. We are helpless in our sin. The Jews tried very hard to follow God’s law and still ended up twisting it into their own version self-leadership. If we study Scripture but do not build upon Christ as our solid rock, we will fall during the storms of life.

4 | **DISCUSSION**

CONTENT QUESTIONS

1. Who is Jesus speaking to in this passage, and where are they?
2. How does Jesus rank his teaching with the rest of Scripture?
3. How did the crowds respond to Jesus’ teaching?

TRUTH QUESTIONS

1. Who and/or what is the unifying truth in all of Scripture?
2. Why does Jesus have complete authority in teaching God’s law?
3. Is it possible to accurately interpret Scripture without knowing Jesus as Lord and Savior?

APPLICATION/PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. What tools does God give believers to ensure they understand the Bible accurately? Do you use those tools?
2. What happens when we try to follow God’s law apart from Jesus, or try to follow Jesus apart from God’s law?
3. Challenge: look for Jesus in ALL of scripture. You will find him!