

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: Psalm 119:9-16

WRITE YOUR INSIGHTS & QUESTIONS HERE:

ADDITIONAL CROSS-REFERENCES: Matthew 11:28-30; John 1:1-5; Romans 8:2; Colossians 1:25-27; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; James 1:22-25.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of: March 8-9

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

2 | **READ Psalm 119:9-16**

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

3 | **CONSIDER SITUATIONAL/HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

Psalm 119 is the longest psalm (and the longest chapter in the Bible). It's also located in the approximate center of the Bible. Nearly every one of its 176 verses mentions its theme: the Bible itself. It's divided into 22 stanzas, which are arranged in alphabetical order (in the Hebrew alphabet, not English) according to the first letter in each verse. It's impossible to read this psalm without seeing the importance and precision of God's written word.

In John 1:1, Jesus is called the Living Word of God. It's impossible to look intently at the written word without being pointed to the Living Word. When the ancient Jews based their lives on the scriptures, they would be able to recognize the Living Word when He became a man and lived among us. It is only Jesus Himself who is our hope--not empty religion, nor our sorry attempts at righteousness. The scriptures, as well as all of life, are all about Him, not us.

4 | **DISCUSSION**

CONTENT QUESTIONS

1. Does v. 9 address a question many young people have?
2. Does this passage speak of a casual Bible reading, or something else?
3. Is this sort of immersion in God's word seen as drudgery?

TRUTH QUESTIONS

1. Is it human nature to neglect God's word and try to make our own righteousness? Is there any benefit to following that natural bent?
2. What does it mean to "hide God's word in my heart"?
3. According to v. 12, who teaches us God's ways?

APPLICATION/PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. Does my personal purity have anything to do with my relationship with Jesus?
2. What is my attitude toward God's word? Does my life reflect that attitude?
3. Challenge: discover how God would have me hide His word in my heart throughout the next week, and see what happens when I do!