

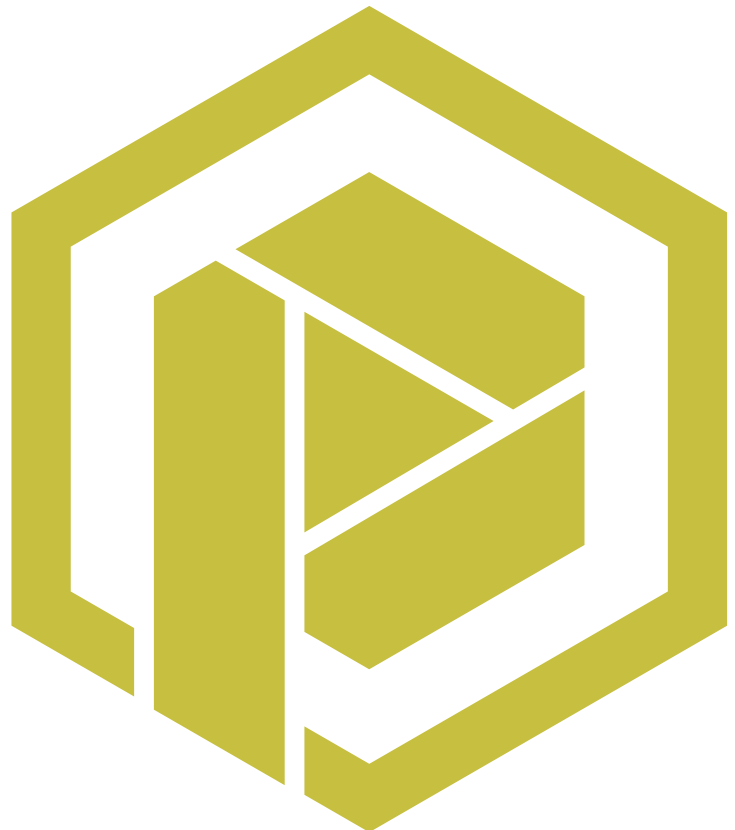
SUMMER 2024

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 23 | JUNE 9

P R E S T O N W O O D S T U D E N T S

Beach Camp – No LGDG



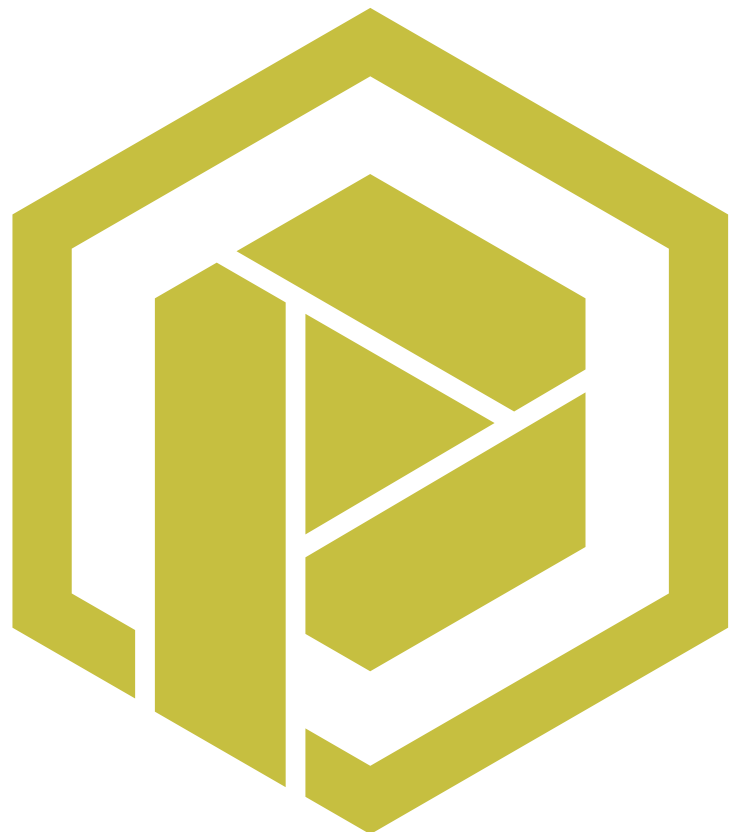
SUMMER 2024

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 24 | JUNE 16

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

PRESTONWOOD STUDENTS



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE | WEEK 24

main point



Each believer has at least one spiritual gift from God, and it is important to prayerfully discern which gift(s) you have been given for the betterment of the Church and your personal walk with Christ.

scriptures



1 Corinthians 12:1-7; Romans 12:1-8; Acts 11:19-24; Acts 8:26-40; John 15:1-17

devotional questions



- Which gift do you immediately relate to? Make note of it.
 - Which gift do you wish you could grow in and learn about more?
 - How do you see spiritual gifts displayed in your own life?
 - How are you specifically using this gift to impact our church?
 - How have you seen someone use his or her spiritual gift to make Jesus' name famous?
 - How have you used your gifts recently?
 - What sticks out to you about this story?
 - What can you learn from his example?
 - Think of a time when you tried to do something in your own power but were overwhelmed.
 - Do you believe your vine is connected to Jesus as your source of life?
-

essential doctrine



This is a portion of the guide that focuses on an essential doctrine from Scripture that applies to our week of devos. If you have questions, ask Jameson.

**Christ
Connection**



In this week's devotionals, we look at spiritual gifts and the people who displayed them. The purpose of these gifts is to point people to Christ and point our personal relationship to Christ. These gifts require a dependence on Christ, and if something is not gratifying to Christ, then it is not a spiritual gift. Spiritual gifts are different for every Christian and as we exercise our gifts, the Church is made stronger and better. Being gifted at one thing does not excuse a believer from exercising his or her other gifts - each one is a part of our Christian walk with Christ.

in defense



This is an optional section. If you thought of something in your week of devos that students would need to know in defending their faith, explain it here. Don't force it, but if there is something, utilize this portion.

**discussion
questions**



- Can you think of a person in your own life who displays the same spiritual gift as you? How can you be more like that person?
 - Can you think of a person in your life who displays a spiritual gift that might be difficult for you to exercise? What can you learn from that person?
 - Think about your favorite person in the Bible. What spiritual gifts did he or she possess?
 - What confidence and passion do you find knowing that Jesus is the vine, and you are a branch?
-

SUMMER 2024

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 25 | JUNE 23

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

P R E S T O N W O O D S T U D E N T S



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE | WEEK 25

main point



This is a one-sentence summary that you want students to walk away with and our weekend communicators to wrap their messages around.

scriptures



Acts 18:23–28; 19:1–41; 20:1–21:14

devotional questions



- How can you be “a great help” to those around you this week?
 - How can you share Jesus with someone in your life who may not understand the Gospel?
 - What area of your life still needs to come under the power of Jesus?
 - How will you respond when the world reacts with anger?
 - In which of these five things are you strongest and weakest?
-

essential doctrine



Personality of the Holy Spirit | The Bible not only affirms the full divinity of the Holy Spirit but also His personhood. Many people have mistakenly believed that the Spirit is a force or power, not a person. However, Scripture affirms His personhood by acknowledging that He is treated as a person (Acts 5:3; 7:51; Hebrews 10:29), acts like a person (John 14:26; 15:26; Romans 8:14), has attributes of a person (1 Corinthians 2:10–11; Ephesians 4:30), and acts in personal ways (Isaiah 63:10; Acts 13:2). In addition to these, the Bible also affirms that Christians relate to Him personally (Acts 5:3–4; 7:51)

Christ Connection



When Paul arrived in Ephesus on his third missionary journey, he encountered people with various understandings of salvation. Paul faithfully shared the Gospel with all he met and persevered in his efforts, resulting in many trusting in Jesus and experiencing changed lives. Paul’s faithful perseverance was a testimony to Jesus, and he faithfully endured to bring salvation to the world.

in defense

The Bible tells us again and again that we don't have to live in fear (Isaiah 41:10; Psalm 23:4; 2 Timothy 1:7; 1 John 4:18). However, Scripture also teaches that the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom (Psalm 111:10). When people encountered God's glory, they generally responded in sheer terror. For instance, when God descended upon Mount Sinai, all Israel was terrified (Exodus 20:18). Even Moses trembled in fear (Hebrews 12:21). When Peter, James, and John saw Jesus' glory and heard the Father's voice at His transfiguration, they fell on their faces, terrified (Matthew 17:6). John, when He saw the glory of Jesus revealed in a vision, fell down as if dead, out of fear. When we are made aware of God's holiness, we see our depravity in relation and the natural reaction is legitimate fear. However, because of Jesus and despite that we still wrestle with the flesh, we are made holy in God's sight and are forgiven of our sin. With this in view, we no longer fear the judgment of God, yet we are to live toward Him with a reverential fear that leads to our wisdom and obedience.

discussion questions

- Why is it important to keep learning and growing in our understanding of God and the Gospel?
 - There's an emphasis on the "word of the Lord" (Acts 19:10, 20). What role do the Scriptures play in the mission and ministry of the Church?
 - Paul could not see the Jews' hearts, but he knew they were hardened (Acts 19:9). What reveals the state of our hearts? Consider Luke 6:45.
 - What are some ways that we can determine if our hearts are more like the people in Acts 19:9 or like the people in Acts 19:18?
 - Do you have someone to whom you feel you can confess anything? How can you be that kind of person for someone else?
 - What might it look like to follow Christ in community like the Ephesians?
-

SUMMER 2024

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 26 | JUNE 30

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

P R E S T O N W O O D S T U D E N T S



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE | WEEK 26

main point >> **This is a one-sentence summary that you want our students to walk away with and our weekend communicators to wrap their messages around.**

scriptures >> Acts 21:15-25; Acts 21:26-22:29; Acts 22:30-23:9; Acts 23:10-11; Acts 23:12-35

devotional questions >>

- Why is it important to respond with our actions instead of retaliating with our words?
- How can you use your story to share Jesus' story?
- What sins should you confess and forsake to have a good conscience?
- How does knowing your future is in God's hands encourage you?
- How can you use your limited power and influence to do good?

essential doctrine >> **God Is Truthful** | The Scriptures are clear that in God there is no falsehood (Titus1:2; Hebrews 6:18). God represents things as they really are. Everything He says can be trusted because God guarantees the truth of everything He tells us. The call for us to be honest and not to bear false witness is rooted in the utter truthfulness of our Creator. Telling the truth is one way we bear the image of God, whose Son is "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6).

Christ Connection >> Paul's confidence in the midst of trying circumstances came from his faith that the God of his fathers was the God who had revealed His glory in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Paul believed that the faithfulness of God that was shown through the Cross and Resurrection of Jesus would sustain him through persecution and trial.

in defense

The historical reality of Jesus' Resurrection is the very foundation of the Christian faith. Paul claimed in 1 Corinthians 15 that apart from it, the entire Christian religion is stripped of its hope and power. But we have good reason to believe that it did, in fact, happen. Dr. Stephen Wellum, professor of Christian theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, says, "The evidence for the resurrection is well known, and it consists of three interlocking pieces: 1) the fact of the empty tomb, 2) the resurrection appearances of Christ, and 3) the transformation of the disciples and the establishment of the church. None of these are conclusive individually, but collectively, they offer a powerful testimony to the history of the resurrection." Apologist William Lane Craig wrote, "The resurrection of Jesus constitutes a solid rock on which Christians can take their stand for God's decisive self-revelation in Jesus."

discussion questions

- How does today's reading help us see the relationship between divine providence and human responsibility?
 - How can you remember that God is for you despite the challenges you face in life?
 - Why can we trust God even through difficult circumstances?
 - How does belief in the Resurrection give you courage in fearful situations?
 - Which fears hold you back from testifying about Jesus as Paul did?
 - What would you attempt for God if you knew He was with you?
-

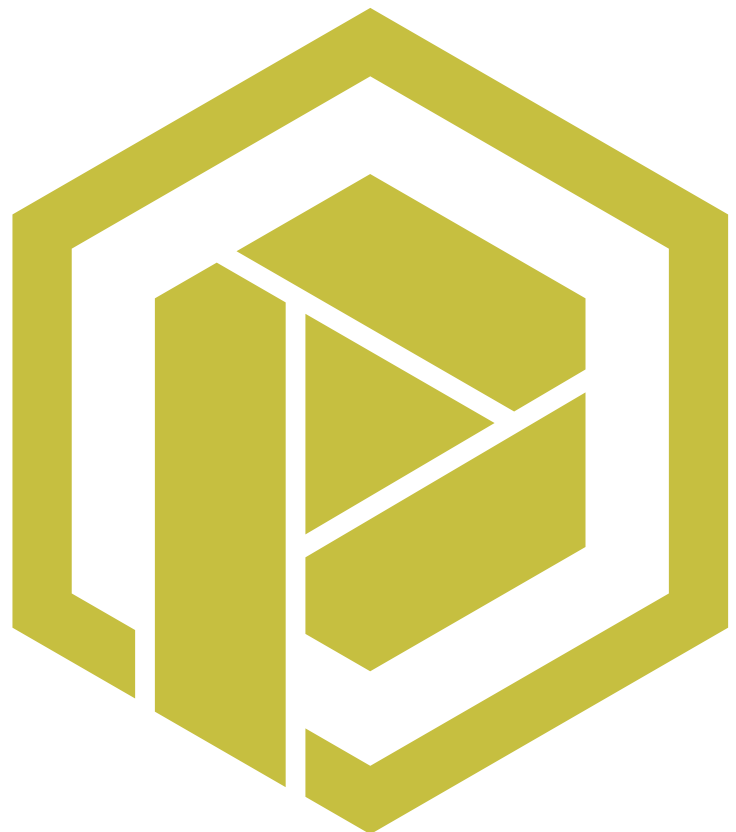
SUMMER 2024

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 27 | JULY 7

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

PRESTONWOOD STUDENTS



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE | WEEK 27

main point



This is a one-sentence summary that you want our students to walk away with and our weekend communicators to wrap their messages around.

scriptures



Ephesians 1:1-23; 2:1-22; 3:1-6:24

devotional questions



- What does Ephesians 1 reveal to you about the Gospel that you hadn't thought about before?
 - How does remembering where we started give us an appreciation for where we are now?
 - How might God's love motivate you to live out Ephesians 2:10?
 - With whom are you at odds, and how can you seek peace and unity?
 - What is an area of your life where you need to trust God's power more?
-

essential doctrine



Body of Christ | The New Testament describes the Church as the body of Christ. The Church lives and operates as Christ's representative here on earth, with Christ as its Head (Colossians 1:18). This means that the Church is an extension of Christ's ministry, carrying out His work by fulfilling the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). In addition, the picture of the Church as the body of Christ shows us the interconnectedness of individual Christians, with each member dependent upon one another for growth and sanctification (1 Corinthians 12).

Christ Connection

The Gospel breaks down barriers and unites those who have trusted in Jesus for salvation by grace through faith. Jesus has reconciled all who believe into one body – the Church.

in defense

Christianity offers the greatest foundation upon which to build arguments for equality, justice and reconciliation. Christianity can account for the source of our equality (the image of God), the source of injustice (the Fall), and the source of reconciliation (the Gospel). Theologian and pastor Kevin DeYoung wrote, “If we who have been made in the same image, born into the world with the same problem, find the same redemption through the same faith in the same Lord, how can we not draw near to each other... Antagonism toward people of another color, language, or ethnic background is antagonism toward God himself and his design for eternity. Christians ought to reject racism, and do what they can to expose it and bring the gospel to bear upon it.” The moral underpinnings of every cry for equality and justice finds their roots in the Christian Scriptures. Our culture’s acute awareness of these issues gives us a unique opportunity to testify to the truthfulness of the Gospel.

discussion questions

- How does this passage shape your understanding of the Gospel?
 - How can this passage humble the proud and encourage those who struggle with self-worth?
 - What are some walls of hostility that need to come down for us to be united in Christ?
 - Why does the Gospel have to be the foundation of Christian unity?
 - How should God’s mercy toward us affect how we treat one another? Consider Ephesians 4:32.
 - What are some good works that God has “prepared ahead of time for us to do” (Ephesians 2:10)?
-

SUMMER 2024

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 28 | JULY 14

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

PRESTONWOOD STUDENTS



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE | WEEK 28

main point



This is a one-sentence summary that you want our students to walk away with and our weekend communicators to wrap their messages around.

scriptures



Philippians 1:1-2:30; 3:1-21; 4:1-23

devotional questions



- Where do you need to put forth more effort in order to be who God wants you to be?
 - How can we overcome the tendency to put our identity in our past successes or failures?
 - How does Christ's holding onto you give you the confidence to run the Christian race?
 - Who is influencing you, and whom might you be influencing?
 - What impact could your joy and contentment – despite your circumstances – have on others?
-

essential doctrine



Glorification | Glorification is the final stage in the process of salvation. It refers to the future time when a Christian reaches moral and spiritual perfection at the time of death or at Christ's return (Philippians 1:9-11; Colossians 1:22). Glorification also involves the physical perfection that we will have once our bodies have been resurrected. When we are glorified, we will have a fuller knowledge and understanding of God and His Word (Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Corinthians 13:12).

**Christ
Connection**



The apostle Paul described life in Christ as running a race in which we press toward the goal of fully knowing Jesus as we hope in the final victory of our glorified bodies. Our perseverance in the race reminds us of Jesus and His endurance of the Cross, which provided forgiveness of our sins and salvation.

in defense



**discussion
questions**



- Why is it so hard to see gain as loss (Philippians 3:7), and loss as gain (3:8)?
 - What would it look like to “forget” what is behind (3:13)?
 - Why is it important to trust that your righteousness comes “from God based on faith” (3:9)?
 - What difference does it make knowing Christ has first taken hold of you (3:12)?
 - Who are some people you should try to imitate as a believer?
 - What would it look like to live in anticipation of Jesus’ return instead of being focused on earthly things?
-

SUMMER 2024

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 29 | JULY 21

THE TRINITY

PRESTONWOOD STUDENTS



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE | WEEK 29

main point



God is our eternal and perfect Father.

scriptures



Isaiah 44:6-8; Matthew 6:26-33; 1 John 4:16-20; Jeremiah 32:16-27; Romans 8:14-17

devotional questions



- How does understanding God's nature prepare us to interact and share our faith with people of other religions?
 - How often do you take your anxieties and worries to God?
 - How has God's love impacted your life?
 - How does God's love change the way we love others?
 - Have you ever felt God asking or pushing you to do something you don't understand? Was it difficult to trust God?
 - How can you begin to recognize God's power and ability to make things happen for His glory?
 - How should God's compassion drive us to love Him deeper?
 - What is the importance of God's compassion to both the believer and non-believer?
-

essential doctrine



God the Father is our *eternal* and *perfect* Father. He is absolute; He provides; and He is loving, powerful and full of compassion.

**Christ
Connection**



Out of His character and deep love for us, God created a way for us - through Christ - to be adopted into His family and be coheirs with Christ.

**discussion
questions**



- What characteristics or attributes do you usually associate with God the Father?
 - How can you develop and further your relationship with God the Father?
 - Have you struggled to see God as good and loving in light of suffering in the world? If so, why?
 - In what ways do you believe God is involved in our daily lives?
 - What is the purpose of faith in your relationship with God?
 - How should God's love cause you to live?
 - Why is it important that God is compassionate?
 - What does it mean for God to be absolute?
 - Whom do you need to share God's love with this week?
-

SUMMER 2024

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 30 | JULY 28

THE TRINITY

P R E S T O N W O O D S T U D E N T S



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE | WEEK 30

main point



Exploring Jesus' humanity, deity, submission, compassion, and role as Savior reveals how His life guides us in faith, compassion, and purpose.

scriptures



Luke 4:1-13, 16-21; Matthew 26:36-46; John 11:28-44; 14:1-7

devotional questions



- In what area does Satan tempt you the most?
 - What specific temptation does Satan use to attack you the most?
 - What part of Jesus as God is the most comforting to you?
 - What is the most difficult thing for you to give over to God?
 - Why is it so difficult to surrender things to God?
 - Where has God met you with the most compassion?
 - Where do you need to show someone compassion this week?
 - Have you trusted in Jesus as the Way, the Truth and the Life?
 - How has your life changed since you made that commitment of trust?
-

essential doctrine



Jesus as the Son of God – If Jesus is not *both* 100-percent man and 100-percent God, then His sacrifice isn't sufficient for us today.

Christ Connection



Jesus is the Son of God, and the only way for us to experience the salvation that He offers is by surrendering our life fully to Him and trusting Him in all areas of life.

**discussion
questions**



- How does Jesus' being God make Christianity so much different than other religions?
 - What characteristic of Jesus is most compelling to you?
 - How can we become more like Jesus?
 - How can we use the comfort of God to comfort others?
 - Why is it such a big deal that God is both 100-percent God and 100-percent man?
 - Whom do you need to share the message of Jesus with this week?
-

SUMMER 2024

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 31 | AUGUST 4

THE TRINITY

PRESTONWOOD STUDENTS



main point



The Holy Spirit lives within those who accept Jesus as Lord and then leads them in the ways of God.

scriptures



John 14:15-24; 16:5-7, 12-15; Romans 8:12-15; 8:26-27; Acts 20:22-28

devotional questions



- How do we know the Holy Spirit is alive in believers today?
 - How can we love God with our lives and not just our words?
 - What does it mean that the Holy Spirit is our Helper or Advocate?
 - How can you allow the Holy Spirit to guide you in your life?
 - Do you find yourself living in the flesh or the Spirit? How can that begin to change?
 - How does knowing you are adopted into the family of God change the way you want to live your life?
 - What does your personal prayer life look like?
 - How does it comfort you to know the Holy Spirit speaks to the Lord on your behalf?
 - How can we be prepared for the ministry moments the Holy Spirit will guide us to?
 - What does your personal time with the Lord in prayer and in Scripture look like?
-

essential doctrine



John 14:15-24 – Jesus promised to us that as believers, we have been given the Holy Spirit to be our helper and Spirit of Truth!

**Christ
Connection**



The bottom line is this: The Holy Spirit is Advocate, Helper, and Spirit of Truth for all who have accepted the Gospel of Jesus. When we accept Jesus, we receive salvation, but we also receive the Holy Spirit who intercedes on our behalf, leads us in conviction, and guides us in our everyday lives! The wonderful promise of Jesus is that upon salvation, we receive the Holy Spirit in our lives.

**discussion
questions**



- Who is the Holy Spirit to you?
 - What do you think the Holy Spirit does?
 - Do you ever think about the Holy Spirit and His impact on our lives?
 - How does the Holy Spirit interact within the lives of believers?
 - Why do you think God gave us the Holy Spirit?
 - How can we remember that the Holy Spirit is our advocate?
 - How does having an advocate help us as believers in Christ?
-

SUMMER 2024

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 32 | AUGUST 11

PREACHING IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES

PRESTONWOOD STUDENTS



main point



Live for Christ wherever God's providence places you

scriptures



Acts 24:1-9; 25:9-12; 26:27-32

devotional
questions



- What does this story teach us about the importance of truth? (Imagine what it would have been like if the Judeans had not been opposed by Paul and Barnabas at Antioch!)
 - Why do you think people have a tendency to add to the gospel? How should knowing you are saved by grace affect your relationship with God?
 - God knows our hearts (Acts 15:8). How can that be both comforting and fearful?
 - God makes no distinctions between different types of people (Acts 15:9). How do our hearts need to grow to be more like God in that area?
 - What are some ways we need to live differently in order to show that we are “a people for his name” (Acts 15:14)?
 - How can we live in a way that is more considerate and puts others before ourselves?
-

essential
doctrine



God's Providence | Providence refers to God's continuing work and involvement in His creation. This includes, in various degrees, God's preservation of the created order, His governance, and His care for His people (Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:3; Gen. 8:21-22). Christians believe the world, and even the cosmos itself, is contingent upon God, incapable of existing apart from Him. Christians also believe in God's personal and direct intervention in the world—as opposed to a hands-off approach to creation—that affects not only the natural order, but also the individuals and events within human history.

**Christ
Connection**



God had told Paul that he would preach before kings and that he would reach Rome. God's chosen path for Paul to fulfill these promises was in chains as a prisoner for His faith. Paul's trust in God and his continuing to preach the gospel in the face of false accusations, unjust sentencing, and possible torture and death is an example of confidence in the power of the gospel to save.

**discussion
questions**



- Where in the Old Testament did God use injustices or false accusations to guide His servants?
 - What is the greatest example in the Scriptures of how God used false accusations and a bogus trial to accomplish His plan?
 - Reflecting on your own life, what are some examples of God's providence?
 - How does trust in God's providence help you get through difficult situations?
 - Why is it important to keep doing what is right even when you're in a situation that is unfair or wrong?
 - What are some opportunities for you to serve God that are unique to this season as a teenager?
-

SUMMER 2024

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 33 | AUGUST 18

CORE VALUES

PRESTONWOOD STUDENTS



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE | WEEK 33

main point



REACH - As Jesus reaches for the lost, we should do the same. **LEARN** - The more we learn about Christ, the more we will look like Christ. **LOVE** - Christians are called to love everyone because Christ died for everyone. **MULTIPLY** - Christ-followers should “reproduce themselves in others” to carry on the legacy.

scriptures



Luke 15:1-7; Jude 1:17-23; Hebrews 10:23-25; Ephesians 4:11-16; Luke 23:29-39; 2 Timothy 2:2

devotional questions



- What did your life look like before you accepted Christ as your Savior?
 - If you are a Christian, are you reaching others as Jesus did? If so, how are you reaching them?
 - What does suffering and pain look like in your school?
 - How are you reaching people who do not believe in Jesus?
 - Would you consider yourself a young Christian or a mature Christian according to Ephesians 4:13?
 - This week, what is one way you can learn and imitate Christ?
 - Have you ever faced someone mocking Jesus? How did you react?
 - Would you choose to die for someone who hated you?
 - Do your daily actions mock Jesus?
 - Which criminal represents you? Are you denying Jesus or serving Jesus?
 - Why would Jesus see the Cross as an act of love?
 - Do you love the body of Christ?
-

essential doctrine



Mission | Evangelism tells the Gospel, and it's the first part of our mission statement: REACH. Without people, the body of Christ cannot be a whole body. We must reflect on the actions of Jesus and reach others with the Gospel. In order to know Jesus and His mission, we must learn about Him through prayer and reading the Bible. We are commanded to love our neighbors as ourselves. We are commanded to multiply ourselves into others.

**Christ
Connection**



The first thing we have to do is pursue Christ. He wants us to go after Him by carrying our cross daily and by putting Him above everything else in our lives. Once we put Him at the center, then He wants us to pursue others. Jesus came to seek and save the lost, and we should do the same. We are unable to share the Gospel with our own understanding of this world. We must lean on the Lord and His teachings to reach others. Christ tells us to come to Him with all of our questions, wonders and concerns. Jesus did not come to die for only certain people. He came for everyone.

**discussion
questions**



- Why is it necessary to make sure people see Christ in us in order for our ministry to be effective?
 - Do you see evangelism as optional or as a necessary part of being a Christian?
 - Do you have any fears in evangelizing?
 - How do you start a Gospel conversation?
 - Do you see growth as an important part of being a Christian? Why or why not?
 - Personally, how can you look more like Christ every day?
 - What are some things that stop you from looking more like Jesus? How can you eliminate those things (sin) from your life?
 - If you are growing spiritually every day, what will be the result? What fruit will be produced?
 - How easy do you think it is to live out the greatest commandment: to love your neighbor as yourself?
 - What does it mean and look like to love in this way?
 - Based on God's love for us, how should we treat others?
-