

2025

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 32

MISSION/VISION

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



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE | WEEK 32

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?
 - When a sinner comes to know Jesus, do you act like the brother who stayed home? Or the father? Leaders, begin by giving your story in one sentence, and then have your students take turns telling their story.
 - 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 who mocked Jesus? How did you react?
 - Would you choose to die for someone who hated you?
 - Do your daily actions mock who Jesus is?
 - 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?
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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 must 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 thing.

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 our questions, wonders and concerns.

Jesus did not come to die for certain people. He came for those who have strayed, departed, and returned.

Discussion Questions



- Why is it necessary to make sure people see Christ in us 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 you love 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?
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2025

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 33

REDEMPTION

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



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE | WEEK 33

Main Point



God sees and responds to those who are oppressed and suffering.

Scriptures



Exodus 3:2-15; 4:1-5

Devotional Questions



- Do you ever have trouble believing God hears you when you pray? Why?
 - What might we learn about God's character from His speech to Moses?
 - Which of these characteristics of God have you witnessed in your own life recently?
 - What are some other examples of God's drawing near to His people in Scripture?
 - Why do you think it is important that God displays both characteristics? How does His transcendence and immanence offer you hope and comfort today?
 - How have you seen God's power manifested after taking a step in faith and obedience?
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Essential Doctrine



God Is Transcendent | God's transcendence refers to the fact that He is distinct from and independent of His created world. He is transcendent over us in regard to His greatness and power as well as His goodness and purity. The implication of this doctrine is that God is inherently superior to humanity; His thoughts and ways are higher than ours (Isaiah 55:8-9). When God saves us, He restores us so we can fulfill our human purpose; this does not mean that we become God or that distinctions between God and humanity are obliterated. Understanding God's transcendence evokes awe and wonder at His goodness and power.

**Christ
Connection**



God told Moses His name is “I AM” as a revelation of His transcendent self-existence. Jesus is the eternal Son of God, the great “I AM,” who came to us to save us from sin.

**Discussion
Questions**



- How does it comfort you to know God sees every sin committed against you? How does it challenge you to know God sees every sin you have committed against someone else?
 - How does it encourage you to know God hears the cries of the oppressed? How can we make sure we pay attention to injustice and oppression in our world so God can work through us?
 - What are some ways we can increase our sense of reverence for God?
 - What is the difference between being “terrified” by God and being “awed” by God?
 - What are some areas in which you feel unqualified or unable to do what God has called you to do?
 - What fears prevent you from speaking on God’s behalf? How can faith in God’s promised redemption help you overcome these excuses?
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2025

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 34

REDEMPTION

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



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE | WEEK 34

Main Point



God's people are saved through a substitute.

Scriptures



Exodus 7:14-18; 12:3-8, 12-13, 29-32

Devotional Questions



- What are the false gods our society turns to for security?
 - What are some idols in your life you may need to confront to draw your attention back to Him?
 - What warnings might we receive from God today when we refuse to listen to His instruction? What does it take for God to get your attention?
 - Why was it important for the sacrificial lamb to be spotless? What did being spotless signify?
 - The blood on the door was a public statement for all to see. How does this influence the way we think of our faith?
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Essential Doctrine



God Is One | The Bible affirms that God is one, as seen in Deuteronomy 6:4-9, otherwise known as the *Shema*. In both Old and New Testament times, the advocacy of monotheism (belief in one God) was contrary to the surrounding culture. Where most cultures practiced polytheism (belief in multiple gods) or henotheism (the worship of one god with the belief in multiple gods), the people of God knew, based upon God's self-revelation, that Yahweh, the Lord, is the only one true God.

Christ Connection



Just as a spotless lamb was sacrificed to spare God's people from His judgment in Egypt, so also Jesus Christ is the Passover Lamb who was sacrificed in order to protect us from God's wrath.

In Defense



Skeptics will often say the Christian faith isn't rational or founded upon the evidence, but is the result of wishful thinking. Of course, the way the Bible presents faith – as 2,000 years of church history – nothing could be further from the truth. Faith has never been an intellectual blind leap into the dark, but has always stood on historical facts and evidences. Even here, it is reasonable to conclude that the Israelites needed to witness these miraculous plagues themselves to have faith that God had heard them and was coming to their rescue. While faith is much more than evidence, faith certainly relies upon the evidence and makes use of it. Historical evidences – such as the Resurrection of Jesus – serve as the very bedrock of our faith.

Discussion Questions



- How does this account highlight both God's judgment and grace?
 - What can we learn from this account about not taking God's grace for granted in our lives?
 - Why is it easy to put our trust in things we can see (money, people, etc.)? What lies do people in our culture turn to for security, purpose, and joy in life?
 - How might these lies have impacted the Church?
 - How is the culture Moses and Aaron faced in Egypt like ours today when it comes to speaking truth?
 - What are some false gods in your social circles, community, school, family? How can you start addressing these this week with the truth of the Gospel?
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2025

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 35

REDEMPTION

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



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE | WEEK 35

Main Point



God protects His people.

Scriptures



Exodus 13:17-22; 14:1-4, 13-14, 21-22, 26-28

Devotional Questions



- Do you usually react as the Israelites did when your circumstances become difficult? Why do you think we are so quick to stress out and whine when life gets tough?
 - How have you seen the power of God after waiting a long time for Him to act?
 - Why do you think it is important to see the connection between the Red Sea and Jesus' work on the Cross?
-

Essential Doctrine



God Is Omnipotent | God is all-powerful: there is nothing God cannot do so long as it does not contradict His own nature or law. God has power and authority over the universe He created, from the largest solar system to the smallest particle. Affirming that God is all-powerful does not mean that God can sin – since that would go against His perfect moral nature. As Christians, we rest in the belief that the God who has all power is good, and we gain great comfort by knowing an all-powerful God is working for our good and joy.

Christ Connection



God made a way of deliverance for His people through the Red Sea. In a similar manner, God made a way of deliverance for us by sending His Son, Jesus. Through faith in Jesus, we are saved from sin and death.

In Defense



People often ask why they don't see big, miraculous displays of God's power today, such as the parting of the Red Sea. While there are several ways to respond, it is important to mention the purpose behind miracles in the Bible. For the most part, the Bible shows that miracles were intentionally and strategically done to verify a word from God. A good example is the Gospel's spreading to the unreached people groups who were hearing the message of Jesus for the first time in the book of Acts. Miracles done by God through the apostles served as a visible proof that the message these men were proclaiming wasn't their own, but God's.

Do miracles like these happen today as the Gospel continues to move forth? Christians answer this differently. However, the important point to make is that big flashy miracles aren't necessary to support our faith. Like the disciple, Thomas, we already have plenty of reasons to believe the Christian faith to be true. We can look at the world around us and marvel at God's fine tuning in bringing this masterpiece into existence. We can look at the changed lives of the disciples and those we know. Ultimately, we can look to Jesus Himself, sit under His teachings in the Gospels, and begin to realize He is more compelling than any miracle we might witness.

Discussion Questions



- How was God glorified in this account? How was this good for the people to see and experience?
 - Why is seeing, experiencing, and knowing the glory of God good for us?
 - What are the primary ways God guides and directs His people today?
 - Why are these ways better than the cloud and pillar of fire the Israelites had?
 - In what ways is the Israelites' complaining like our own hearts?
 - How do the Israelites' complaints reflect the attitudes of our own hearts?
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2025

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 36

UNCHAINED

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



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE | WEEK 36

Main Point



In a world of conflicting messages, God's Word provides the truth we need, guiding us to faithfully follow Jesus when we surrender and obey it.

Scriptures



John 8:31-32; Matthew 4:18-25; Matthew 5:3-12

Devotional Questions



- How has your walk with Jesus not matched the expectations you had about following Him? (Matthew 5:3-12)
 - What is your most common motivation for being obedient to Jesus? In what ways have your motivations changed throughout different seasons of your life?
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Essential Doctrine



Whether we want to admit it or not, the media has massive implications on our culture, not only impacting the thoughts we have about following Jesus but shaping the way we follow Him in our everyday lives. As our assumptions about what it looks like to follow Jesus meet the conflicting messages of the world, we then live our lives based on the inconsistencies of those messages which will not result in faithful obedience. In the Gospels, Jesus told His disciples about what following Him would really be like compared to what their expectations were. He knew what their thoughts were about following Him, just as He knows what our thoughts and expectations are today about following Him. As your group unpacks the Scripture from today, your students will learn what Jesus said following Him would really be like.

Discussion Questions



- Matthew 5:3-12 lists several realities of following Jesus and calls them blessings while many of us would not. How can you, throughout this week, begin to consider these aspects of your relationship with Jesus a blessing?
 - What is one false message from the world that you have been believing and acting on, and how can you replace it with God's truth this week?
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2025

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 37

UNCHAINED

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



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE | WEEK 37

Main Point



While technology offers many opportunities, we must guard ourselves and use it to glorify God, remembering that our identity is found in Christ, not in what we see or hear through technology.

Scriptures



Mark 1:35; Colossians 3:1-3; Philippians 4:8; James 3:4-10; Psalm 139:13-16

Devotional Questions



- How does culture use technology to distract from God's plan and promises?
 - Why do you think it's important to use technology for God's glory?
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Essential Doctrine



Technology can be a tricky thing. So often, it distracts us from what God wants for us. Because of this, it causes us to turn our temptation into sin through doubting our worth and making decisions we later regret. The Bible tells us to do all things to the glory of God, so why should that be different for technology? Through the lens of Philippians 4:8, it's essential to make sure everything we post, like, or share runs through a filter so that we hold ourselves accountable for our own actions and thoughts, and keep others from stumbling.

Discussion Questions



- In what ways can you use your technology to bring glory to God?
 - Paul mentions in Colossians 3, that we are supposed to focus "on things above." Is your use of technology truly based "on things above"? Why or why not?
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2025

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 38

UNCHAINED

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



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE | WEEK 38

Main Point



Narcissism, characterized by self-absorption and the pursuit of personal greatness, is something faithful disciples of Jesus actively reject, choosing instead to focus on Christ.

Scriptures



Luke 17:33; Acts 8:9–13, 18–23; Philippians 2:3–4

Devotional Questions



- How have you seen self-focus negatively affect your own relationship with Jesus and your relationships with those around you?
 - Simon makes it clear that he wanted the power he believed Peter possessed. Why do you think Simon wanted this power (Acts 8:9–13, 18–23)?
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Essential Doctrine



Self-focus has taken over our culture by storm. Our students constantly face messages such as, “you just need to be confident in you,” “do what makes you happy,” and “put yourself first.” However, this kind of thinking is in complete opposition to the truth communicated in Scripture. Whereas culture tells us to put ourselves first, Scripture tells us to deny ourselves. Being a disciple of Jesus is not about gaining power or influence for ourselves, as Simon thought, but about putting God first and foremost. It doesn’t stop there, because we must put others first as well, as Philippians called us to.

Discussion Questions



- In what ways have you acted in selfish ambition this past week? In which types of situations have you been the most likely to focus on yourself?
 - What is one way you can practically put someone else first this week? *(Leader, dig a little deeper into your students’ answers to this question. Take time to write the answers and have the students be specific in their action steps. At a point later this week, reach out through text and ask them if they have had a chance to do this.)*
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2025

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 39

UNCHAINED

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



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE | WEEK 39

Main Point



Through Christ's sacrifice, we are freed from shame and made worthy, no longer bound by our past mistakes.

Scriptures



1 Peter 2:16; Romans 8:1-4; 1 Timothy 1:13-17; John 8:36; Ephesians 2:8-10

Devotional Questions



- How do you define freedom?
 - Who are people in your life that need to experience the freedom God gives us?
-

Essential Doctrine



In a world that brings us a lot of uncertainty, there is a true freedom available to us. When we confess and believe in Jesus and what He did on the Cross (Romans 10:9-10), we receive this gift of freedom. The freedom we have in Christ reminds us that we are worthy and righteous in the eyes of our Creator. From this, we never have to feel as though we are good enough. Christ makes us truly complete in who we are, and there's nothing we can do to lose our freedom – Praise God!

Discussion Questions



- How can you share the freedom you have in Christ with family and/or friends this week?
 - In what ways can you remind yourself of your freedom daily?
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2025

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 40

UNCHAINED

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



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE | WEEK 40

Main Point



God's goodness is shown through His sustaining grace toward His people.

Scriptures



Exodus 16:2-4, 13-20; 17:3-6

Devotional Questions



- Why is functional atheism not genuine Christian faith? Can you tell a difference in your own life?
 - What is your first reaction to the Israelites' complaining? Why?
 - When was the last time you complained about a situation you were in? How does complaining reveal a sense of entitlement on our part?
 - Why do you think God didn't want the people to receive more than a day's worth of manna?
 - In what ways has the Lord provided for you, even in difficult times?
 - God intended to train and form His people during their years in the wilderness. How might God be forming you through difficult times?
 - What does complaining about our circumstances say about our heart's posture toward God?
-

Essential Doctrine



God Is Gracious | God's nature is to delight in giving unmerited favor to those who are undeserving (Ephesians 2:8-9). His grace toward sinners is found most clearly in the salvation He has provided through Christ. Because of sin, humanity is undeserving of salvation – all of us have turned our backs on God, and as a result, we deserve death (Romans 6:23). However, instead of leaving people in their sins, God has demonstrated His graciousness by providing atonement and forgiveness for our sins through the death and Resurrection of Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:21).

**Christ
Connection**



Moses struck the rock instead of the people, and water flowed for the people's salvation. Jesus is the Rock who was struck for our salvation, the Rock whose living water satisfies us forever.

**Discussion
Questions**



- Why do some people wrongly assume difficult times must be the result of God's anger or disapproval toward them?
 - Even though we don't wish for difficult times in our lives, what attitude should we have when they do come?
 - Why is spiritual nourishment more important than physical nourishment?
 - What is the greatest thing God could ever do for us?
 - What do we communicate to the world when we complain?
 - How has this session challenged you to address the complaining in your own life?
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2025

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 41

PROMISES

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



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE | WEEK 41

Main Point



God equips His people with wisdom.

Scriptures



Exodus 18:7-18, 24-27

Devotional Questions



- When have you praised God because of His work in someone else's life?
 - How does God receive honor when we rejoice at all He is doing with others?
 - When has someone in a leadership position delegated responsibility to you? When have you delegated responsibility while in a position of leadership?
 - How might a solo leader, no matter how good he or she is, hurt the people being led?
 - In what other areas of life do you think this leadership principle exists?
 - What burdens are you carrying that you need to let God handle?
-

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



Moses needed others to help him complete the task of preserving the unity of God's people and teaching them God's laws. God has provided us the church body, with Christ as the head, to work together to fulfill our task of sharing the Gospel with the world and bringing others into His body.

Discussion Questions



- Read Ephesians 4:11-13. In your own words, describe the purpose for these offices within the church.
 - Why do you think God designed it so that no one person could fulfill all these roles?
 - Why should we be more like Jethro, rejoicing over what God has done in someone else's life?
 - How might God use our rejoicing to draw others to Himself?
 - In what areas do you need to practice better leadership skills? How will you go about making those changes?
 - Whom do you know that needs godly counsel this week? How can you point that person toward Christ?
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2025

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 42

PROMISES

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



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE | WEEK 42

Main Point



Our relationship with God influences our relationship with others.

Scriptures



Exodus 19:3-6; 20:1-8, 12-17

Devotional Questions



- What rules from your parents have you come to appreciate and respect more over the years?
 - Why do you think God wanted His people to live differently from the surrounding nations? What might this communicate about God to others?
 - How do people break these commandments today?
 - What are some ways God's name is misused today? Why does God take this so seriously?
 - In what ways do you sometimes struggle to honor your parents?
 - What commandment do we tend to ignore the most when it comes to relating to other people?
-

Essential Doctrine



Special Revelation | Special revelation refers to God's revealing Himself to humanity through historical events, His Word, and through Jesus Christ. Through special revelation, human beings learn about God's character, His will, His purpose for creation, and His plan of redemption. Special revelation shows us the nature and character of God, and because God has revealed Himself in this way, we can know Him – through a saving relationship with Him in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Christ Connection



The Law reveals how we properly live in relationship with God and others. Because of sin, it is impossible to keep the Law. Jesus, the sinless Savior, is the only One who has kept the Law of God perfectly, and we are credited with His righteousness when we trust in Him.

In Defense



Apart from God, the concept and reality of goodness would not exist. In other words, apart from having a moral lawgiver whose character is completely good, we would be unable to say with any authority that acts are either good or bad, right or wrong. All morality would be relative – good for some, maybe bad for others. We would be unable to say acts of terrorism are wrong or that torturing an infant for fun is an act of evil. Of course, the very thought of horrific things such as those not being declared evil and wrong is unsettling to us, and rightly so. Why? Objective goodness exists because God exists. Though evil may prevail for a time, as Christians we take refuge in Jesus – the One who promises that one day He will wipe away every tear, making all wrongs right, as He makes all things new again (Revelation 21:4).

Discussion Questions



- How might your relationship with God influence your relationships with other people?
 - What might this look like in your own life moving forward?
 - What is the connection between stealing and coveting? How is idolatry at work in the heart of the person who steals?
 - What are some examples of stealing non-monetary items that seem commonplace today? How should a Christian respond to these things?
 - What do the commandments teach us when it comes to interacting with people outside the church?
 - How can the people of God love our unbelieving friends, family and neighbors with the Gospel this week?
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2025

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 43

ELEVATE

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



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE | WEEK 43

Main Point



Idolatry happens when we worship something or someone else besides God.

Scriptures



Exodus 32:1-14

Devotional Questions



- What are some objects of worship for people today?
 - What do you think of when you hear the word idol? In what ways do we still deal with idols today?
 - Why do you think God was angry with the people?
 - What do you expect to satisfy you? What do you do when it fails to truly satisfy?
 - When have you asked someone to pray for you? How did it encourage you to know that someone was making requests to God on your behalf?
 - Whom will you pray for that needs salvation? How will you point that person to Jesus this week?
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Essential Doctrine



Guilt and Shame | Guilt refers to the objective status of someone being found guilty for a wrong committed as well as the incurring of punishment that comes with it (Matthew 5:21-22; Jas. 2:10). Shame is the emotional pain that comes from sinful actions. Scripture teaches that human beings are guilty in an objective sense and feel the weight of shame in a subjective sense.

Christ Connection



When the children of Israel sinned, they needed a mediator (Moses) to intercede on their behalf. Jesus Christ is the perfect mediator between a holy God and sinful humanity, and He faithfully intercedes on behalf of His people.

Discussion Questions



- How are we like the Israelites in this account?
 - Why is it better to trust in God rather than in some thing or person?
 - Why should we be concerned about idolatry in our own hearts and lives today?
 - What are some heart idols you have faced this past week? Month? Year?
 - What can we learn from Moses' intercession on behalf of the people?
 - Whom can you fervently pray for this week?
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2025

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 44

ELEVATE

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



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE | WEEK 44

Main Point



God desires to be near His people.

Scriptures



Exodus 36:2-7; 39:42-43; 40:34-38

Devotional Questions



- What do you think motivated the Israelites to keep giving?
 - Do you think they gave because they wanted to (cheerfully) or because they had to (begrudgingly)? Why?
 - What does the text infer about God's gifting people artistically?
 - How has God gifted you to serve Him and others in His kingdom?
 - List other places in Scripture that mention God's desire to dwell among His people.
 - How does the truth that God dwells within you impact your everyday life?
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Essential Doctrine



God Is Holy | God's holiness refers to His uniqueness in being separate from all He has created. The Hebrew word for *holy* means "separate" or "set apart." God's holiness also refers to His absolute purity. God is unstained by the evil of the world. His goodness is perfect, and the moral code we find in the Scriptures reflects His holy nature. As people made in God's image, we are called to holiness.

**Christ
Connection**



God instructed the Israelites to build a tabernacle so He could dwell with them. God wants to be with His people. For this reason, God would later send His Son to “tabernacle,” or dwell, with us to bring us into His presence.

**Discussion
Questions**



- Imagine you are an Israelite who saw God’s presence displayed in the brilliance that filled the tabernacle and the cloud above it. How would this have affected your understanding of God’s character? Of His greatness?
 - How might the thought of God’s desire to dwell among His people affect the way you battle sin in your life?
 - What is the difference between obedience as a response to grace versus obedience as an attempt to earn grace?
 - What are some ways grace has changed your heart?
 - Why is it wrong to think some gifts/professions are sacred and some are secular?
 - If you are interested in the arts in some way (graphic design, painting, sculpture, illustration, acting, writing, etc.), how does this encourage you to pursue that craft for the glory of God?
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2025

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 45

PROMISES

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



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE | WEEK 45

Main Point



God provides atonement for the people's sins.

Scriptures



Leviticus 16:2-6, 15-22

Devotional Questions



- What stands out to you in this text about the Day of Atonement?
 - What do you think it was like for Aaron and consecutive high priests to approach God on the Day of Atonement? How can we approach a holy God?
 - What are ways people try to approach God on their own terms or in their own way?
 - How was atonement made?
 - What ways can you point people to the perfect advocate and sacrifice for sins – Jesus Christ?
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Essential Doctrine



God Is Holy | God's holiness refers to His uniqueness in being separate from all He has created. The Hebrew word for *holy* means "separate" or "set apart." God's holiness also refers to His absolute purity. God is unstained by the evil of the world. His goodness is perfect, and the moral code we find in the Scriptures reflects His holy nature. As people made in God's image, we are called to holiness.

Christ Connection



Aaron was an imperfect high priest who was required to make atonement for himself and God's people every year. Jesus is the perfect High Priest who made atonement once for all time with His own blood.

Discussion Questions



- In which ways is Israel on the Day of Atonement a picture of ourselves?
 - How does knowing Jesus Christ as the perfect high priest enable you to come before a perfect and holy God?
 - How do you think these sacrifices would have made the person offering them feel in regard to his or her sin?
 - What should our response be when we recognize our sin for what it really is?
 - What are the implications for how we live in light of Jesus' sacrifice for us?
 - How should we relate to others in light of Jesus' sacrifice for us?
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2025

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 46

LOST

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



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE | WEEK 46

Main Point



Rebellion against God is rooted in failing to trust God.

Scriptures



Numbers 13:1-2, 30-33; 14:1-4, 30-35

Devotional Questions



- What are some circumstances in your life that help you remember God's faithfulness and remain faithful to Him?
 - What impossible situations have you faced, or are you facing, and how is God teaching you to trust Him in those situations?
 - What did the Israelites' fear reveal about their trust in God?
 - How does fear sometimes keep you from following God's plan?
 - What are some ways that our actions reveal what is in our hearts?
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Essential Doctrine



Sin as Rebellion | Because the Bible portrays people as responsible beings, called to respond in faith and obedience to God's revelation, the Bible often portrays sin in terms of defiance and rebellion toward God the King. Isaiah 1:2 is one of many passages that describe sin in terms of rebellion against God: "I have raised children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me." Seen in this light, sin is personal and willful disobedience, the raising of a clenched fist toward the One who made us.

Christ Connection



God's people rebelled against Him and refused to enter the land He had given them because they failed to trust His provision and promises. Jesus fully trusted the Father and entered the world in obedience bringing about the fulfillment of God's promise to provide One to save people from sin.

Discussion Questions



- Share about a time when you allowed circumstances to negatively affect your sense of identity.
 - Why is it important to know that our identity as Christians can never be changed or altered because of what Christ has done for us?
 - How does the disobedience of the Israelites provide a glimpse into our own disobedience toward God?
 - How can we learn from the mistakes of the Israelites and avoid disobedience in our own lives?
 - How can God's work in your own life be used to draw others to Him?
 - What is an instance of God's faithfulness in your life you can share with someone this week?
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2025

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 47

LOST

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



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE | WEEK 47

Main Point



The bronze serpent points to both God's punishment of sin and His salvation through Jesus.

Scriptures



Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:14-15

Devotional Questions



- When have you been impatient with God? Did your impatience cause you to grumble about what He had or had not done? Explain.
 - What does the Israelites' punishment communicate about the seriousness of sin?
 - When you realize you've sinned against God, what is your immediate response usually?
 - What is the significance of God's command for the people to gaze at the snake? What were the people to consider as they looked upon it?
 - What does your attitude about your sin indicate what you believe about God?
 - How does the completed work of Jesus motivate you as you seek to live for Him?
-

Essential Doctrine



Sin and Death | The ultimate consequence for sin is death – physical death, spiritual death, and eternal death (Romans 6:23). God was clear to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden that if they ate from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, they would surely die (Genesis 2:17). The type of death that would result from the Fall in the garden of Eden wasn't only physical death but spiritual death as well, the separation of a person from God. Spiritual death continues in a permanent state when someone dies apart from the reconciling work of Christ, who defeated death through His own death on the Cross and subsequent Resurrection.

**Christ
Connection**



Just as the Israelites looked upon the bronze serpent lifted high on the pole and were healed, so also we look with faith upon Jesus Christ lifted high on the Cross and are saved from the punishment of our sin.

**Discussion
Questions**



- What are some parallels between the Israelites' sin here and the sin of Adam and Eve in the garden?
 - Why is it so important to trust God for guidance instead of jumping in and doing things on our own?
 - What does your attitude toward your sin say what you believe about Jesus?
 - How does a right perspective of Jesus' sacrifice give us a right perspective on the seriousness of our sin?
 - What lesson can we learn from the Israelites' response when they recognized their sin?
 - What are some current sins in our own lives we need to repent of?
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2025

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 48

LOST

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



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE | WEEK 48

Main Point



God is faithful to keep His promise to bless His people.

Scriptures



Numbers 23:19–23; 24:5–9, 17–19

Devotional Questions



- How encouraging is it to know that much like the Israelites here, God is for you and not against you?
 - What does it say about God's character that He isn't willing to go back on the promises He has made?
 - How does knowing that God will never lie or fail to keep a promise encourage you to trust Him more?
 - How does God's promise to restore and make all things new one day prompt the way we live each day now?
 - What smaller victories do we tend to focus on and find contentment in rather than longing for the greatest victory God has given us in Christ?
-

Essential Doctrine



God Is Faithful | God's faithfulness means He keeps His word and always fulfills His promises (1 Corinthians 1:9; 2 Timothy 2:13; 1 Peter 4:19). God's faithfulness is demonstrated in His fulfillment of the promises He made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The apostle Paul linked the attribute of "faithful" to God's coming through on His word: "He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it" (1 Thessalonians 5:24). We reflect God by keeping the promises we make to Him and to others.

Christ Connection



Balaam could not curse God's people but blessed them instead and proclaimed God's faithfulness. Balaam's blessings ultimately were realized centuries later in Jesus. Jesus is the conquering King who fulfilled God's covenant promises and delivered His people from sin and death.

Discussion Questions



- How might seeing the stories of God's faithfulness in Scripture affect the way you see His work in your life today?
 - What are some ways you would like to be used for God's glory in the weeks ahead?
 - How should we respond to our sin knowing that God's promises are secure no matter what?
 - How can God's faithfulness be a motivator to be faithful in our devotion to Him?
 - Do you think some people believe the goal of the Christian life ultimately lies in the future? Why is that; and why is belief not true?
 - How do the future promises of God impact the way we live today?
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2025

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 49

LOST

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



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE | WEEK 49

Main Point



God warns of the consequences of unfaithfulness to Him.

Scriptures



Deuteronomy 31:14-23; 32:44-47

Devotional Questions



- Where have we seen other instances of God's meeting with His people?
 - How can the biblical motif of God's dwelling among His people help us in those moments when we feel as if He isn't near?
 - How does God's response to the Israelites' idolatry serve as a warning to us about harboring modern-day idols of the heart?
 - Why do you think God wanted this message to be communicated through song?
 - How are we beneficiaries of God's faithfulness to the Israelites? What does this say about His love for the nations today?
-

Essential Doctrine



Enslaved to Sin | Because of the Fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, all of humanity has inherited a sin nature that inclines them toward sin and rebellion. Human beings are enslaved to sin (Romans 6:17), continually living with the propensity to transgress God's commandments whenever possible. It isn't until one experiences salvation through the work of Christ that he or she is able to overcome sin's enslavement through the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:2).

Christ Connection



Despite the people's ongoing sinful rebellion, God promised to be with them and provided them with words of life. Jesus is the Word of God who paid the penalty of our sin so that we might have life and relationship with God.

In Defense



In this account we see a strong and powerful motif within Scripture in that God wants to dwell among us! The Creator of the universe, the holy and all-powerful God, wants to be involved in the day-to-day aspects of our lives. This fundamental Christian theme is radically different from the other religions of the world. For them, it is about working our way to God, while Christianity is about God's coming down to dwell among us. Theirs are religions of earning enough credits to somehow please their god and be rewarded, whereas Christianity is about receiving God's gift of friendship and righteousness through the reconciling work of His Son, Jesus Christ, which results in life-long communion with Him that extends to all eternity.

Discussion Questions



- Was there a time when you lived on the borrowed faith of someone else? At what point did that begin to change?
 - Why is it important that we own our faith and not inherit it from someone else?
 - How does the warning for Israel serve as a warning for us today?
 - What are some specific warnings, reminders and promises within Scripture that have helped you fight against temptation?
 - What can you do this week to help you internalize God's Word in your heart? What can you do to help pass this on to the next generation in your church today?
 - How can we prevent our hearts from seeing God's Word as either obligatory or obsolete?
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2025

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 50

CHRISTMAS

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



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE | WEEK 50

Main Point



Jesus is the Prince of Peace, who brought salvation to the world.

Scriptures



Leviticus 16:2-6, 15-22

Devotional Questions



- What “dark” situations have you walked through? How did God bring “light” in those times of darkness?
 - How has Christ brought peace within your life?
 - How has your relationship with Christ brought you peace with others?
 - Which type of Christ’s peace is most meaningful for you right now? Which do you feel as though you need to rest in more?
 - Which of the four names describing Jesus is most meaningful to you? Why?
 - Jesus’ obedience isn’t just an example for us; it changes us. How does this knowledge affect the way you respond to Him?
-

Essential Doctrine



Christ as King | God has always been King over His creation, whether in heaven or on earth. Yet some of His creatures in both realms have rebelled against Him, leaving destruction in their wake. To restore His broken world, God promised a King who would deliver His people and restore all of creation. The promise of a coming King finds its fulfillment in Jesus Christ and looks forward to its perfection when Jesus returns for His Bride, the Church.

Christ Connection



Jesus is the Prince of Peace of whom Isaiah and the other Old Testament prophets spoke. Through His sinless life, death and Resurrection, Jesus makes right what we made wrong because of sin.

Discussion Questions



- How do the circumstances of Jesus' birth help us understand how His rule is different from other kings?
 - What aspects of Jesus' character set Him apart from what we might expect from a king?
 - Why do you think the message of justice would have been good news for Isaiah's hearers?
 - How can God's justice through Christ's death and Resurrection bring us peace with God?
 - What things have distracted you from the true meaning of this Christmas season?
 - How can you redirect your attention to Christ and serving others this year?
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2025

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 51

Christmas – No LGDG

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



2025

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 52

A NEW YEAR

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



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE | WEEK 52

Main Point



God's steadfast love and mercies are renewed every morning.

Scriptures



Lamentations 3:22-23; Ephesians 4:21-25; Hebrews 13:8; Isaiah 40:30-31;
Revelation 21:1-5

Devotional Questions



- How will you use your new start today to live for Jesus?
 - How can you use today to prepare for relying on God's strength in a future hardship?
 - Are there habits in your life that reflect your old self (before God)?
 - What is a routine you have that allows opportunity for God to change your heart?
 - Where in your life have you seen God's consistency?
 - What is an attribute of God that you have been made aware of multiple times in your life? (*immensity, goodness, justice, mercy, grace, omnipresence, immanence, holiness, perfection*)
 - Whom can you share the Gospel with today?
 - How are you preparing your heart for the new heaven and new earth?
-

Essential Doctrine



The Gospel allows us to come to Jesus for salvation as well as daily renewal. As we grow in sanctification, we are not perfect. God's mercy is free and available to us every day. We can trust in Him for our eternal life as well as our everyday strength and decisions.

Christ Connection



We are only made new by the redeeming blood of Jesus. His work on the Cross is sufficient to make us new, and we do not need to add any works to earn our way to heaven. We are invited into a relationship with God through this justification – and we are sanctified through our obedience to God and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Discussion Questions



- What examples are in the Bible of God's creating a fresh start in someone? (*Moses at the burning bush; the nation of Israel; Saul to Paul; Ruth*)
 - When have you relied on God and realized it was worth it?
 - Look at the life of Jesus – what were some of His habits that we can learn from and imitate?
 - Jesus took time away to pray and be with the Father. How did this impact His earthly ministry?
 - When you take time to be with Jesus, what in your day looks different? Why do you think that is?
 - Do you have expectations for the Lord to move in your life this year?
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