



Grow Group Guide | Week 1

Bible Discussion (45-60 minutes)

At the doorstep of 2019, it's worth considering: how will we do this year? Will we be as busy? Will we make any better use of our time? When the new year is over, will we look back with joy, or with regret? Will we be looking at the future with anticipation, or with dread? What does God want us to do with the next 365 days of our lives?

(Remember: your goal is good discussion, not just to get through all the questions. Choose the best, leave the rest.)

Read: Ephesians 5:15-17

Now let's read it again and really pay attention to what it's saying.

1. Paul tells us to make "the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil." How are the days evil?
2. What are these "opportunities" we're supposed to make the most of? How can we recognize God-given opportunities when they come along?
3. What prevents us from recognizing God-given opportunities? What prevents us from acting on them?
4. What is the will of God? Is it understandable? What does it mean to understand the will of God?
5. If you're willing to share with the group, what are some of your first thoughts when considering how to commit to God's will in your own life this week?
6. Activity: As a group, compile a list of 3-5 of the "basics" of *committing to God's will*. These are things we can and should do each day that can help us align our lives with what we know God's will to be. Get it on paper for everyone to see.

Next Steps: Read **Romans 13:11-12**. Introduce a *simple* and *achievable* plan for your group to help each other commit to God's will and "put on the armor of light," and have members commit to the plan for the next seven days.

Other Scriptures from this week's sermon: Psalm 39:4, Psalm 90:10, Psalm 90:12, Luke 10:40-42, Romans 13:11-12

Prayer (15-20 Minutes)

Use your wisdom to lead a prayer time in a way that allows for growth opportunity. Don't be afraid to try splitting into smaller groups, separate men/women, or prayer partners.

1. Pray for our church, that we will be a light in our community, a place for people to grow deeper and stronger in their faith, and a welcoming place of sincere community.
2. Pray for our Grow Groups, that they will build strong community in our church—quality and meaningful relationships—as we help each other become more like Jesus.
3. Pray for each other, that we will be good stewards of our time, talents, and resources in this new year, and use it in the wisest way we can for the glory of the Lord.



Grow Group Guide | Week 2

Bible Discussion (45-60 minutes)

This last Sunday was Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, and Pastor Pendell and his daughter Aimee led us in a conversation about a really sensitive subject: abortion, and being Pro Life. They discussed the people who are impacted and crushed by abortion. The moms, the dads, the children who may/may not get to live, the wider culture and society. They touched on medical evidence about fetal development and how evidence demonstrating that the fetus is a living baby is overwhelming. And more importantly for us, they pointed toward the Bible's teaching that human life is precious and has absolute value. What about Sunday's presentation stood out to you

Note: Most, if not all, in your group will be pro-life, but be ready to gently deal with some who may not share pro-life views.

Remember: your goal is good discussion, not just to get through all the questions. Choose the best, leave the rest.

Read: Psalm 139:13-16. Now let's read it again and really pay attention to what it's saying.

1. What sort of relationship with our Creator is depicted in these verses? Why does this matter?
2. What does it mean to be "fearfully and wonderfully made?" How should this affect the way we live?
3. Verse 14 says "your works are wonderful." What does this mean about each of us, and our "neighbors" (in the biblical sense of "neighbors")?
4. How does the relationship depicted here between each of us and God differ from the kind of relationship we can (or can't/don't) have with our earthly parents?
5. Two Sundays ago Pastor Ted preached from Ephesians on making the most of every opportunity and making the most of our time. How might this connect to the end of verse 16?

Other Scriptures: Genesis 5:1, 2; Proverbs 24:11, 12; ; Jeremiah 1:5; Matthew 25:40; Ephesians 4:15.

6. How do all of these verses point toward human life being precious and having absolute value—the principle of the sanctity of human life?
7. Are we as Christians called to be "Pro Life?" If so, why? Is it possible to be Christian and pro-choice at the same time? If so, how does one make that "work"?



Prayer (15-20 Minutes)

Use your wisdom to lead a prayer time in a way that allows for growth opportunity. Don't be afraid to try splitting into smaller groups, separate men/women, or prayer partners.

1. Pray for the men and women in our country, and around the world, who are facing a pregnancy decision. Pray that they will choose life.
2. Pray that the First Choice Women's Resource Centers will be a beacon of hope, and will be effective in reaching those considering abortion and in saving the lives of unborn children.
3. Pray that our church can be a safe haven for those who have been hurt by the pain of abortion, that we will continue to build up and nurture our families, and will be faithful in seeking to protect the unborn.



Grow Group Guide | Week 3

Bible Discussion (45-60 minutes)

This week we started a new sermon series in the book of Joshua on “discovering your promised land.” The book of Joshua is filled with wonderful stories and lessons—many which may be familiar to us. It speaks of victory, toppling massive walls, fighting and defeating giants ... it is the story of what God has done for His people, but as we’ll see in studying this book, it is also the revelation of what God is doing and what God will do for you. To you, is the book of Joshua just a book of history, or is it more than that? What does this history mean for you today? God has given us victory, but are we living a victorious life?

Remember: your goal is good discussion, not just to get through all the questions. Choose the best, leave the rest.

Read: 1 Corinthians 10:11:

1. Why is the Old Testament relevant to us? Why is it important for us to know the Old Testaments as well as the New?

Read: Joshua 1:1-5

1. What has just happened “offstage” as this scene opens? What does this mean for Joshua?
2. What promises are given to Joshua? Which promises ask Joshua to look back and see what God has done for him in the past? Which cause him to look to for future blessing from God?
3. What about God’s plan for Joshua and the Israelites might cause him to be hesitant, skeptical, or afraid?
4. Can we simply claim the promises God made to Joshua as having been made for us? Why or why not?
5. We can learn about some of the character traits of God when He gives us a command. Read Matthew 28:18-20 and Hebrews 13:5-6. How do these promises impact the way we think about God’s presence with us?
6. The land of Canaan, also referred to as the Promised Land, represents something very special to the Israelites; what is it and what does it represent for us?
7. Is there a somewhere or something that God has been leading you to, that you have not had the courage to go?

Other Scriptures from this Sunday: 2 Peter 1:3, Romans 6:14, John 8:36, 1 Corinthians 10:11



Prayer (15-20 Minutes)

Use your wisdom to lead a prayer time in a way that allows for growth opportunity. Don't be afraid to try splitting into smaller groups, separate men/women, or prayer partners.

1. Pastor Ted discussed how Christians don't pray for victory, they pray from victory. Pray for each other that we will see and be encouraged that the victory has already been won, and that we will claim it.
2. Jesus is light and has always overcome the darkness. Pray that each of us, and our church, will shine the light of Jesus in our dark world.



Grow Group Guide | Week 4

Bible Discussion (45-60 minutes)

As we continue our study of the book of Joshua, Pastor Ted reminded us that we should be living the abundant, joyful Christian life, and that God wants us to experience freedom, rest, and refreshment from knowing Christ day by day. What God said to Joshua He is also saying to us today ... we must remember that Old Testament promises are there for us here and now. But, God also tells us that though He wants these things for us, we cannot achieve them by our own strength, because on our own we will fail every time. He tells us that we must obey, and we must be in His Word, and it must be fresh on our minds. Have you been in the Word this week? Has the Word of God been proclaimed from your mouth this week?

Remember: your goal is good discussion, not just to get through all the questions. Choose the best, leave the rest.

Read: Joshua 1:6-9

1. God tells Joshua three times to be “strong and courageous,” and also that the “book of instruction must not depart from [his] mouth.” How are these two commands related to each other?
2. Why is it so important for Joshua to know God’s Law as he enters the Promised Land?
3. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Why is it essential to be “thoroughly equipped” as a servant of God? What does it look like to be thoroughly equipped? Do you feel thoroughly equipped?
4. What does it mean, practically, to *meditate* on the Word? What is the process of “biblical meditation”? What is the end result?
5. How can this group help each other to “meditate on [the Word] day and night”? Share with each other your methods of Bible meditation. When is the best time of day? How do we avoid distraction? What are some “do’s and don’ts”?
6. Even though we are often reminded of the importance of frequently being in the Word, why do we let it slip as a priority?
7. Is scripture memorization important? Why or why not?
8. God says that only after we meditate on the Word day and night and obey what it says will we “prosper and succeed in all [we] do”. What does this kind of prosperity and success actually look like? What does it feel like?
9. What reasons do we have to get excited about reading and meditating on God’s Word?

Other Scriptures from this Sunday: Hebrews 13:5



Prayer (15-20 Minutes)

Use your wisdom to lead a prayer time in a way that allows for growth opportunity. Don't be afraid to try splitting into smaller groups, separate men/women, or prayer partners.

1. Pray that we will be strong, courageous, and obedient in following God and pursuing His will, but that we will be strong, courageous, and obedient by leaning on and trusting in Him.
2. The Word of God is a sword. Pray that we will be convicted to make it a priority to spend time reading, meditating on, and sharing God's Word, so that we may prosper and succeed and effectively fend off the devil and his servants.



Grow Group Guide | Week 5

Bible Discussion (45-60 minutes)

As we continue our study of Joshua this week, we turn to the story of Rahab. Rahab was transformed by the power of God, and was spared from divine destruction. While she may/may not have had the ability to do much, she saw the evidence of God, was convicted, and made herself available to be used by God. Are you available today to be used by God? Are you walking, talking evidence of Christ and His transforming power? In our study of Joshua this week, let's look to see how Rahab stands as a "hero of the faith" for allowing the transforming power of the gospel to work in and through her.

Remember: your goal is good discussion, not just to get through all the questions. Choose the best, leave the rest.

Read: Joshua 2:1-21

1. After reading these verses, what is your first thought? What stands out to you? (Ask everyone to share something)
2. Reread v. 8-11. What were the reasons Rahab gave for surrendering to God?
3. Rahab was prepared to turn away from her own people to follow a God she hardly knew. What does this make you think about your own faith? When have you felt like you had to turn away from friends, family, coworkers etc. to follow God? Has following Christ ever cost you anything?
4. Rahab's life was transformed because she saw evidence through the lives of the Israelites that God was the one supreme God. What outwardly visible evidence is there in your life that reflects God's supremacy?
5. Is there anything in your life that is preventing you from being used by God in a similar way to how He used Rahab?
6. Who in your own life do you remember helping you on your journey to salvation? What about their life was evidence of God being the "supreme God" that made you want to change?
7. Has God put someone in your life recently with whom you know He is calling you to share Christ? *(If we are the Israelites, who might be our Rahab?)*
8. _____

Other Scriptures from this Sunday: Numbers 13:31; Hebrews 11:31; Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 9:22, Matthew 1:5

(Prayer section on next page)



Prayer (15-20 Minutes)

Use your wisdom to lead a prayer time in a way that allows for growth opportunity. Don't be afraid to try splitting into smaller groups, separate men/women, or prayer partners.

1. Pray that we will be bold and courageous in making ourselves available to be used by God, and that as a group we will be available to one another to provide encouragement and support.
2. When people see you do they see Christ? Pray we will be evidence of Christ, and that that the transforming power of Christ in our lives will be evident to those we encounter outside of church.



Grow Group Guide | Week 6

Bible Discussion (45-60 minutes)

This Sunday we continued the story of Rahab, who was transformed by God from the inside out. Her sins were forgiven, and she was brought into the fold of Israel. Rahab stands as an example to us: if God can do something with a life like hers, then He can do something with our lives as well. God is in the life changing business, but when it comes to salvation, we cannot depend on our self-righteousness--our good works--but must depend on God, and more specifically, the blood of Christ. PT preached Sunday that the scarlet cord Rahab tied to her window points to Christ's blood in a similar way the blood of the lamb and other sacrifices throughout the Old Testament points to His blood:

Adam and Eve--the first sacrifice (Genesis 3:21; Genesis 3:8); Cain and Abel--their offerings (Genesis 4:3-5); Noah's offering (Genesis 8:20); Abraham and Isaac (Genesis 22:2-13); The Passover (Exodus 12:13); Temple sacrifices (Exodus 29:16; Exodus 12:13); The Crucifixion (John 10:18)

The Bible is about Christ and about His blood redemption. But do we all fully understand what the blood of Christ is, and what that actually did for us? Even those of us who are saved, do we fully know that it means?

Remember: your goal is good discussion, not just to get through all the questions. Choose the best, leave the rest.

Read: Hebrews 9:11-15, 24-28

1. Ask everyone in the group to share their first thoughts on the passage. What spoke to them?
2. What does the writer say was the only thing the sacrifices offered by priests could accomplish? How is this different from what Jesus' blood sacrifice accomplished?
3. If Christ's sacrificial death on the cross had been insufficient to save us and needed to be offered again and again (see v.26), what would that have meant for us?
4. Still others believe that Jesus' death is essential for salvation, but believe they also must do "their part" to earn it. What does this say about how we feel toward Jesus' sacrifice?
5. Do you ever find yourself trying to earn the favor and forgiveness of Jesus? What are some of the thoughts you have or things you do when you try? What are the dangers of this?
6. _____



Read: 1 John 5:11-13

7. Evangelical Christians often speak a common phrase, "Once saved, always saved!" What might cause us to question whether our salvation is final, or guaranteed? How does this passage in John respond to those questions or doubts?
8. In verse 13, John writes "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may *know* that you have eternal life." Why is it important that the verse here says "know" (as opposed to "hope")?
9. Read John 10:27-28. What assurances does Jesus explicitly give to those who place their faith and trust in Him? Why does this matter?
10. The message of these scriptures is critical to our understanding of the gospel. How would you explain these truths to a new believer?
11. What about those who appear to completely walk away from the faith? (See 1 John 2:19)
12. _____

Prayer (15-20 Minutes)

Use your wisdom to lead a prayer time in a way that allows for growth opportunity. Don't be afraid to try splitting into smaller groups, separate men/women, or prayer partners.

1. Pray for the Group members' faith, that their lives would reflect a salvation that is guaranteed, and that our lives would inspire spiritual confidence in our Christian brothers and sisters.
2. Pray that we will earnestly seek to grow deeper and stronger in our faith—grow in knowledge and understanding—and provide encouragement to one another in our Groups and our Church in this endeavor.



Grow Group Guide | Week 7

Bible Discussion (45-60 minutes)

Joshua is the book of victory, and as we continued our study here this week we come upon one of the most memorable events of victory in Joshua: the fall of Jericho. Jericho is a formidable city—large, old, heavily fortified, and right in the middle of the path of the Israelites. The Israelites have two choices: 1-turn around, and return to the wilderness in unbelief, or 2-step up in faith to face the fortress and conquer it. After all, as we read and discussed early in our study, this land and the city of Jericho is theirs for the taking. But, sometimes stepping up in faith is easier said than done, and we can often give in to the lies and discouragement of the devil when we face something that looms before us as an impossible barrier. What is your personal Jericho? What stands between you and the will of God for your life?

Remember: your goal is good discussion, not just to get through all the questions. Choose the best, leave the rest.

Read: Joshua 6:1-5

1. What about God's instructions to Joshua stands out to you?
2. God said "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands" *before* the walls fell and the city was conquered. Why does this matter?
3. If the Israelites are to be an example for our own lives, what currently seems to be your personal Jericho (encourage people to be specific; even if not everyone shares, have everyone at least think of something to his or herself)?

Read: Joshua 6:6-14

1. Joshua and the Israelites did not question God's instructions, despite the fact that they probably did not understand them. What are the dangers of trying to make sense of the logic behind God's will for us?
2. _____

Read Joshua 6:15-21

1. The trumpets blasting and Israelites shouting is a powerful scene. What emotions or thoughts do you have as you picture this happening?
2. When the walls fell, the Israelites didn't go home to take a break. They didn't say "The walls are down, we'll take the city tomorrow." The walls fell, and the Israelites charged straight in. How should we apply this way of thinking to our own "Jerichos"?
3. Verses 15-21 put a big emphasis on the Israelites devoting their victory and the city to Lord. What happens when God gives us victory and we don't devote the victory back to Him? How can we devote our current "Jericho" to Him?



Other Scriptures from this Sunday: Hebrews 11:30; 1 Corinthians 1:18; Isaiah 28:16; Isaiah 30:18; Isaiah 55:8; Isaiah 40:31; Galatians 6:9; Hebrews 10:36; Romans 10:9-10

Prayer (15-20 Minutes)

Use your wisdom to lead a prayer time in a way that allows for growth opportunity. Don't be afraid to try splitting into smaller groups, separate men/women, or prayer partners.

1. Pray that we will stay focused and be obedient to what God has called us to, and expects of us.
2. Is there a problem in your life that you've been trying to solve on your own that you need to bring before God? Encourage group members to think about this and share as they may feel comfortable. Pray for humility to give these problems over to God—that we would stop trying and start trusting God—and that we would have victory through Him over these problems.
3. Pray that we will have faith in the promises of God, and endurance in our waiting.
4. Pray that we will use the victories God gives us in our lives to point others toward Him.



Grow Group Guide | Week 8

Bible Discussion (45-60 minutes)

God has just given His people a mighty victory--performed a tremendous miracle--in the fall and conquering of Jericho. As we discussed last week, Jericho was large, old, and formidable. Most other cities the Israelites would have to face would pale in comparison, particularly the village of Ai which was next in their path.

But before we dive in to Joshua 7, **recap very quickly the specific instructions God gave in Joshua 6:17-19**. These verses give context to our discussion today: the stage has been set, the command has been given, and the consequences for failing to follow God's commands have been made clear. But even when the command and consequences are clear, are there opportunities for sin to creep in? In your life, has there been the temptation to be careless about following God's commands and seeking after His will? Has this at times set in motion a cycle of pride, presumption in our own abilities, and failure to pray?

Remember: your goal is good discussion, not just to get through all the questions. Choose the best, leave the rest.

Read: Joshua 7:1-9

1. The decision-making process that surrounded sending only a handful of men to Ai was flawed in its own right. What was wrong about the way the decision was made? What was missing from the process?
2. Joshua's response to Israel's defeat was very revealing. What about Joshua's cry to God in vs. 7-9 stands out to you? How might the "Jericho Joshua" of chapter 6 differ from the "Ai Joshua" of chapter 7?
3. Does Israel's loss or Joshua's response make you think of anything you've faced in your own life? How does this relate to you/me/us?

Read: Joshua 7:10-15

1. In verse 12 God tells Joshua that their sin has made them liable to destruction. How does sin in our lives prevent us from receiving the fullness of God's blessing and victory?
2. Read Colossians 3:5. How does this relate to God's command at the end of verse 12 to "destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction"?
3. God already knew who had stolen from the devoted things...so why would he make every tribe, clan, and family present themselves to Joshua? How does Romans 14:11 speak to this?
4. _____



Read Joshua 7:15-26

1. What might have been going through Achan's mind as he is hearing the tribes, clans, families being scrutinized in vs.16-18?
2. Why was Achan's confession not enough to save him and his family? Why didn't God show him and his family mercy? (And why was Achan's family involved in the consequences?)
3. What "devoted" things are we withholding from God in our own lives? What kinds of things might we consider to be "devoted" things?
4. _____

Other Scriptures from this Sunday: Proverbs 16:18, Exodus 20:17, 1 John 2:15, Ephesians 4:25, 1 Corinthians 12:26, Mark 9:42; Exodus 20:12; Luke 12:2; Proverbs 28:13

Prayer (15-20 Minutes)

Use your wisdom to lead a prayer time in a way that allows for growth opportunity. Don't be afraid to try splitting into smaller groups, separate men/women, or prayer partners.

1. Pray that we will lean on God and seek His guidance and strength in the battles of life, and in our walk to be faithful to His commands.
2. Pray that when we are lacking contentment that rather than trying to fight this, we will seek to fill ourselves up with Jesus—that we will overcome sin in our lives by being filled with God's word, studying God's word, and fellowship with other believers.



Grow Group Guide | Week 9

Bible Discussion (45-60 minutes)

Last week in Joshua 7 we read and discussed individual and corporate sin, and how both crept into the lives of the Israelites. As a consequence, when they went up against Ai they were unable to conquer the city, and were defeated in a humiliating way. But as we read in the latter half of Joshua 7, the Israelites repented of and dealt with their sin. Joshua 8 tells us that God forgave His people and reveals how He will help them destroy Ai. But, rather than marching around the walls of Ai as they did Jericho, God had a different method He commanded the Israelites to employ. This stands, then, as a reminder that God's methods can change, but God's personality, character, and principles never change. Does this distinction make sense? Do we often get hung up on maintaining methods, and instead miss recognizing the unchanging character of God?

Remember: your goal is good discussion, not just to get through all the questions. Choose the best, leave the rest.

Read: Joshua 7:24 - 8:2

1. As we read in these verses, the Israelites took action, and there was a clear transition from being under God's curse to being under his blessing. What do these verses reflect about the nature and character of God? Why does that matter?
2. Read 1 John 1:9 and Philippians 3:13. If we repent of our sin, why does God then command us to leave the past in the past?
3. Does the new start God gives Joshua and Israel make you think of any new start God has given you? Or does it make you think of things from the past that you need to leave in the past?
4. Often when we think of things from the past that need to stay in the past, we think of past sin and failures. But can we be dragged down and held back by past victories too? How might past victories have hindered the Israelites earlier in Joshua 7?
5. The Bible is full of stories and examples of God giving second chances. Are there any stories or individuals that come to your mind? What about those individuals or stories is particularly encouraging to you?

Read: Joshua 8:24-25

1. Many find such death and destruction uncomfortable to read about and difficult to understand. Why might this be so? Does Deuteronomy 25:17-19 help?
2. In the earlier verses, we read about God's nature to pardon sin, and how He's faithful and just to forgive. Here, we read about God's nature to punish sin, and how He's faithful and just to judge. Do these two natures contradict each other? Explain your answer.
3. Why is it important that we recognize both the goodness and the severity of God? What do we lose if we focus primarily on God's love and goodness, or only focus on God's wrath?

4. _____

Read Joshua 8:30-35

1. Deuteronomy 27:1-8 is the story of God's command to Moses to instruct the Israelites what they are to do and how they are to obey once they cross the Jordan and move into the promised land. They are to write the entire law on large stones and read them to the people. And then they were to build an altar and sacrifice a burnt offering.

How accurately do you see Joshua carrying out these commands in Joshua 8:30-35?

2. How did Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerazim represent the curses and blessings of God? The valley in between the mountains can be referred to as the valley of decision. What choices did God give to Israel? What choices does God give to us related to His Son, Jesus?
3. _____

Other Scriptures from this Sunday: Lamentations 3:22-23

Prayer (15-20 Minutes)

Use your wisdom to lead a prayer time in a way that allows for growth opportunity. Don't be afraid to try splitting into smaller groups, separate men/women, or prayer partners.

1. Pray that all our group members have made the choice to accept and follow Christ. Let them know you are available to talk to them about receiving Christ as Savior if they have not already.
2. This is the Week of Prayer for North American Missions. Pray for one of the missionary teams listed in the prayer guides given out during worship or at <https://www.anniearmstrong.com/missions-stories/>



Grow Group Guide | Week 10

Bible Discussion (45-60 minutes)

Following on the heels of victory over Ai, in Chapter 9 we read how Joshua and the Israelites were tricked into an alliance and treaty with the Gibeonites. When the deception was realized it was met with anger and frustration, but the Israelites stayed true to the vow they had made. True to their word, the Israelites did not attack or wipe out the Gibeonites, and further, as we read in Chapter 10, they were called up to assist in defending them when five Amorite kings joined forces to wage an attack. After an all night march, Joshua and the Israelites attacked the five Amorite kings by surprise and dealt a heavy blow. The Amorites fled, and the Lord hurled hail down upon them. But as Joshua saw them running away toward the protection of their fortified cities, he cried out to God asking the sun to stand still so they would have time to defeat their enemies that day.

As we've read the book of Joshua these past weeks we've seen how this book is not just about what God did, but what God is doing today. In Joshua 10:14 we read that "there has never been a day like it before or since, a day when the Lord listened to a human being..." On that day God held time for Joshua--the sun stood still--but He is not going to hold time back for us. What are we going to do with the time we have?

Remember: your goal is good discussion, not just to get through all the questions. Choose the best, leave the rest.

Read: John 9:4

1. What is the "day" that Jesus is referring"? What is the "night" that is coming, and why can no one work then?
2. Who is the "we" Jesus is referring to? Why is this important?
3. What adjectives would you use to describe the way Jesus spoke this? Are these adjectives we would use for how we live our own lives? What are your thoughts here?
4. If God stopped time for us like He did in Joshua 10, how would our lives be different? Why do you think God *doesn't* stop time for us?
5. Read Matthew 24:42-51. How does this relate to John 9:4?
6. _____

ACTIVITY ON NEXT PAGE



Somerset Hills
BAPTIST CHURCH

Next Step Activity:

Provide everyone in your group with a blank index card and writing utensil (*Explain in advance that the cards will not be exchanged or pass around, and that content of the cards will be as private as each member chooses them to be*).

Ask the members of your group to consider *specific* things that God wants them to start doing TODAY! What things of eternal value has God asked of us that we haven't started, or are putting off? Instruct them to write anything they can think of on their index card. Allow members to spread out, and give them a few minutes for them to write things down and pray quietly. (Playing some quiet worship music here can help break uncomfortable silence and steer members minds toward God). **Attached to this Leader Guide is a copyable list of questions to give members to help with this activity.**

After a few minutes, bring the group back together. Reinforce the fact that the index cards are private, but give an opportunity for any members who wish to share something from their card to do so, yourself included.

1. For those who are comfortable sharing, what is God calling you to do? Where is He calling you to step up or step out?
2. Some of the things God calls us to do require significant, prolonged, and sustained effort. *How can we be encouraged to stick with it and persist, or be an encouragement to others in their pursuit of doing what God is calling them to do?

Other Scriptures from this Sunday: 1 Corinthians 10:11; Ephesians 6:12; Psalm 119:89; Romans 16:20; John 12:31; Psalm 23:5

Prayer (15-20 Minutes)

Use your wisdom to lead a prayer time in a way that allows for growth opportunity. Don't be afraid to try splitting into smaller groups, separate men/women, or prayer partners.

1. Pray that all our group members will actively pursue *identifying* what God is calling us to do, and that we will act on it.
2. Pray that we will be an encouragement to one another as we seek God's calling on our lives.
3. Pray for our church, that we would act and serve with a sense of urgency, but urgency that doesn't abandon grace and love.

* we're reminded in God's Word that He is not always about efficiency or accomplishing things in the quickest way possible (for example, Joseph in Genesis 37-50 ... 17ish years! ... Genesis 50:20).

If there's some praying you intend to do, why don't you pray it?
If there's witnessing you intend to do, why don't you do it?
If there's an apology you need to give, why don't you apologize?
If there's a sin you need to confess, why don't you confess it?
If there's a gift or money you intend to give, why don't you give it?
If there's something that needs to be forgiven, why don't you forgive it?
If there's a relationship that needs to be mended, why don't you mend it?
If there's a ministry God wants you involved in, why don't you join it?
If there's a new believer He wants you to mentor, why don't you begin?
If there's a portion of Scripture you need to memorize, why don't you memorize it?

If there's some praying you intend to do, why don't you pray it?
If there's witnessing you intend to do, why don't you do it?
If there's an apology you need to give, why don't you apologize?
If there's a sin you need to confess, why don't you confess it?
If there's a gift or money you intend to give, why don't you give it?
If there's something that needs to be forgiven, why don't you forgive it?
If there's a relationship that needs to be mended, why don't you mend it?
If there's a ministry God wants you involved in, why don't you join it?
If there's a new believer He wants you to mentor, why don't you begin?
If there's a portion of Scripture you need to memorize, why don't you memorize it?