

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

The Joy of Being God #13 – “The Joy of Knowing God”

Tips for Leaders

As pastors in Everyday Church we should concern ourselves with the journey that people are on towards Jesus. Everyone has a ‘next step’ in their life’s journey with him. And we can help someone grow as a disciple of Jesus by helping them discern what that next step is towards the ultimate goal of becoming more and more like Jesus. A journey of 1,000 miles starts with a single step. So, when you consider your applications from this Life Group meeting help people to discern what their next step is. Focusing on the next little bit they need to do to become more like Jesus. The more specific the better.

CONNECT IN with one another – Icebreaker questions

This week’s topic is all about our relationship with God; you might want to start by encouraging people to each share something about someone they know well who has had a positive effect of them; you might like to draw out what it was about this person that was so helpful.

CONNECT UP with God – or rather, lead people into prayer with the expectation that they will be with the God who came down!

- In Philippians 3:8 Paul says that he considers **everything** in his life a loss – garbage! – next to the surpassing greatness of knowing God. The Bible – from start to finish – reveals that far from running or hiding from us, God has done **everything** in his unlimited power to make sure we can know him. Use the main part of the meeting to help people to talk about their experience of knowing God and – most importantly – lead them into a time of prayer with the expectation that they will meet with him for themselves. Emphasise – even to yourself – the amazing grace & power of the good news of Jesus to open this opportunity up for us!
 - Pray & lead people to expect to meet with Jesus – gently and without hype – as the scriptures have promised. Remember – Truth is inherently personal, not propositional! We love God, not just information about God, and the distinction is really important! You might like to ground your prayer in some encouraging (John 10:27, John 17:3) or provocative (Psalm 34:8, 1 Corinthians 2:16) scriptures which should lead us to expect an experience of knowing God beyond just the idea; it would also be very helpful to share – or encourage others to share, depending on the experience of your group – the ways in which God speaks to you or shows his love for you.
 - Be sensitive to where each person might be at in their experience of knowing God and try to avoid or at least explain Christian jargon that the rest of us might have gotten used to.
 - Go as far with this as you’re comfortable as leaders and help people to see the grace at work in any small act together: God is found in the still small whisper as well as in the jaw dropping miracles and prophecies which he still delights to unfold
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- **CONNECT OUT with the non-church people around you**
 - Read Matt 10:32 & 33 and sense whether people feel this is a burden they cannot carry. How far do you believe that acknowledging Jesus before others begins with us acknowledging he is with us when we’re on our own? How far are people fearful because they feel they have to rely on their own wits and confidence to share – where the Bible is really clear (Matthew 28:16-20 & Acts 1:8 & elsewhere) that we need God to meet with us and fill us with his love, power and compassion if we’re really to reach people! You might want to end by praying for one another.