

Recalculating...



Small Group Study Guide

RECALCULATING

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Thank you for being willing to lead and care for people in your Small Group! This is not an easy task, but it is an important one. You are leading a group of people to help them engage in community, and encounter God together. This doesn't mean you have to be serious and solemn when you lead, it means that you get to help a group of people learn more of who God is, what He is about, and how we can follow God more fully in our life. This can be a fun and exhilarating adventure!

Below are some things that will help you in your role as the leader:

Focus of the Series: The Covid-19 Pandemic has forced all of us to Re-calculate the daily patterns of our lives. In this series, we are learning from Paul's willingness to Recalculate the priorities and methods of his ministry. We are doing this so that we can also apply these same principles to our lives as we Recalculate our pathway forward, given all of the changes that have fallen upon us during this Covid Shut-down period.

Structure of the Study: The format of the study is broken down into three sections (Share, Study, Symbolize), progressing from easy-conversational questions, exploring the Bible passages, to personal reflection and thought. There are plenty of questions from which to choose from. Do not feel pressured to have to get through every single question in the study. The study was specifically designed in order that you can pick and choose the questions that will be most effective in navigating the discussion. The ultimate goal is for the group to engage in discussion to better understand God's grace together. If there is good dialogue happening, and you only get through a few questions, that's great! If you need more questions to help move the group along, then feel free to use whatever you need.

Some Tips For Leading The Study:

Your role is to be a facilitator. You do not need to be the in-house expert of the Bible, you simply need to lead the group in good discussion. This means speaking less yourself, and giving as many people in your group as possible a chance to share their thoughts and insights.

Silence is OK! Don't get nervous if no one answers the question right away. If too much time goes by (say, 45 second), ask if you need to repeat the question, or if the question was clear.

It's OK if you or the group does not have an answer to a question. If someone asks a difficult question, and the group is unsure of the answer, it's ok to table the question for a week in order to research the answer. Some of Apostle Paul's letters were

responses to questions and problems in the church, and they waited months for an answer!

Expect God to Show Up: Most of your prep-time should be prayer-time. Ask God to be present in your group. Invite the Holy Spirit to be present in your group. Ask God to show you where He is working in your group. Pray for the challenging dynamics in the group. Allow God to lead your group's discussion by being open to what is coming to the surface in the discussion. Shepherd the group to engage with what God is doing. Pray that group members don't leave the same way they came!

Honor Start/Stop Times. Your group should agree together on when the group should start and end. Honor those times by beginning on-time, and manage the time so you don't go over.

Recalculating Study Guide: Week Four

SCRIPTURE: Philippians 2:12-30

Overview: Paul is under house arrest and is now unable to travel. He is must “recalibrate” and find a new way to do ministry. Paul is sending out Timothy and Epaphroditus to share the gospel and continue his evangelism work.

SHARE: Get the group talking

1. Have you seen photos of, or visited the Grand Canyon? What is your impression of it?
2. When you hear the words, “Working Out” what images come to mind? Are the images Positive? Negative?

STUDY: Get the group into the Bible

1. Verse 12 begins with “Therefore my dear friends...” What does the “therefore” refer to? See verses 5-8.
2. Verse 12 says we are to, “work out our salvation with fear and trembling.” How is working OUT our salvation different from working FOR our salvation?
3. Pastor Paul mentioned 3 ways we can “work out our salvation”: One is Caring for our own souls [through personal prayer, reading our Bible, Reflection, small group study, corporate worship]. Another is faithfully carrying out the assignments God gives us. Finally, being aware of how our lives impact others [relational sensitivity]...In which of these 3 areas would you like to grow? How can God help you with this?
4. According to verse 14, why is it important that we as Christians not grumble and complain? How can we “shine like stars in the universe?”
5. Why does Paul say in verse 20 that he has “no one like Timothy?”
6. When someone takes a genuine interest in your life, how do you feel? Can you share an example of a time someone took a sincere interest in your life?
7. Looking at verses 25-30 how would you describe the character of Epaphroditus?

SYMBOLIZE: Get the group to reflect on their own life

1. How has the Pandemic caused you to “recalibrate” your life? How has it changed the way you connect with others? How has your relationship with God been impacted?

2. This coming week, What are some specific ways you can “work out your salvation?” What creative ideas do you have to encourage others despite social distancing?

ADDITIONAL STUDY

Phil 2:13 Roman 8:28
 1 Cor 12:6
 Heb 13:20,21

Phil 2:14 Rom 14:1
 1 Cor. 10:10

Phil 2: 17 Rom 15:16
 Col 1:24