

CENTER OF IT ALL

SERMON-BASED QUESTIONS

LEADER'S GUIDE FOR LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing and leading your group in discussion.

FEBRUARY 17 + 18, 2024

ANNOUNCEMENTS + NOTES

- **SPRING BREAK:** Mark your calendars for March 10-16; take this week off to refresh, or just do something laid back and social with your group.
 - SBQ's are not written and posted during breaks.
- **SPRING GROUP SIGN UPS:** This current session is flying by! Group Sign Ups will be March 23 + 24—Keep an eye out for an email about open spots.
- **CONNECT OUTSIDE OF GROUP:** Make it a point to plan something outside of “Life Group”. Go on a walk, grab a coffee, visit someone’s house, do a dinner—it is so important to build relationships apart from the setting of a group meeting because this is where quality shared experiences happen.

★ **LEADER TIP:** *The members in your group will be as open and vulnerable as you (the leader) are. Remember you are an individual, a child of the King, before you are a leader and facilitator of a group. Respond to study questions in regards to yourself prior to wearing your “leader hat.”*

RIGHT NOW MEDIA | A STUDY ON GENEROSITY

*If your group is choosing to join in the Annual Mini Series, you'll find details in *this* green box of the Leader's Guide each week. Below is the heart behind the Mini Series as well as details. Since this is the inaugural year, holler if you have any questions as you jump into the study.*

If your group has completed the Mini Series, shoot Hannah an email with some feedback. Consider these questions:

1. What was the best part of the Mini Series?
2. What could have improved?
3. What was your group's biggest take away?
4. How was discussion around the topics and RNM provided discussion questions?
5. How did it go for you as the leader?
6. Any other feedback?

Each Winter Session, Life Groups come together to do a unified mini series. The 2024 Mini Series topic is **GENEROSITY**. The two options for this year's Mini Series are: The Treasure Principle by Randy Alcorn or God, Money, and Me by Paul De Jong (both studies can be found by using the search bar in RightNow Media). Here is what to hit each week of your Mini Series:

- If you're participating in the Mini Series, choose one of the above studies for your group to dive into
- Prep for your meeting (pray, look over the provided Leader's Guide on RNM and alter it as you see fit)
 - Each of the 2 studies offered has its own leader's guide! Please utilize it as it will walk you through discussion questions based on the video.

- Always do a few ice breaker questions—do the one's laid out under "My Story" in weekly SBQ's or make up your own
- Watch the video
- Engage in the provided discussion questions
- Pray with each other and for each other

★ *RightNow Media Access: Log in with an existing account or create one through going to heightschurch.com, then scroll down to "Right Now Media Free Access" and follow the prompts to create a new account.*

MY STORY

These questions are safe for everyone to answer! At the start of each session, ice breaker questions are **very** important. They build a foundation for relational connection. Questions like these should ALWAYS be a part of conversation (especially before the study begins because it gets people talking!). These questions will taper off in SBQ's intentionally as the session progresses. The first few in "My Story" are all-plays, the last few intentionally get a little more personal and help with the transition to the "Digging Deeper" section below.

1. How do you show other people that you care for them (or show them they are valuable)? Explain.
2. What is your most prized material possession? Why is it so special?
3. What is something that you have created that you are proud of? Share.

DIGGING DEEPER

As you prepare conversation around the questions below, respond to the questions first for yourself. Then it will have a personal impact that you can share with the group. Tailor these questions to fit the personality of your group, you know your group the best! Add, adjust, or take away questions. This discussion guide provides guardrails for conversation, it is not the end all be all.

This is week 1 of a new series called "Center Of It All." There is a timeless joke about kids answering "Jesus!" to all questions asked in church. We could speculate why "church kids" would answer as they did, but let's hope that (even at a young age), they caught on to the concept that gathering together with other Christians for worship was really all about Jesus. Could it be possible that as we have grown older, we have lost our focus on what church is about? Lost focus on what our homes and families are about? Lost focus on what our jobs and careers are about? Lost focus on what indeed life itself is about? Perhaps, it is time to refresh the point of origin and move from there accordingly.

4. Read Colossians 1:15-20 quietly and individually.

Leaders: Use this question as a time to worship together. Consider having a scribe jot down everyone's responses (on a poster, paper on the wall, whiteboard, etc.), but post them where everyone can see. Gather as many unique statements as possible. When everyone's list is exhausted, have one person read them aloud again and reflect in worship together at the God we serve!

 - a. After you read these 5 verses, make a list of statements that begin with "Jesus is _____." You can use the content in the verses or come up with your own.
 - b. Go around the circle, each person reading one statement aloud at a time. Continue around the circle until each person's list has been exhausted.

- c. As a group, reflect on this mini exercise together. Did you learn anything new about Jesus? What, in particular, struck you from Paul's teaching about Jesus? Explain.
- d. Reread verses 16-17 aloud together. What does it mean that "*all things have been created through*" Jesus? What does it mean that you have been created by Him?
- Reflect on what it means that "*all things have been created for Jesus*". What implications does this have for "all things"?
 - What does it mean that you have been created for Jesus? What practical significance can you draw from this truth? Explain.
Leaders: Keep your ears open for these ideas: the creator is the owner of the thing he created; the creator is the one who had the original design and intent in mind; the creation is a reflection of the creator. Also, listen for these concepts: our task as His creatures is to honor, love, serve, glorify, etc. Him.
5. Read John 1:1-5 and 1 Corinthians 8:6 together as a group. How do these 2 verses add to what we learned from Paul's teaching in Colossians? Explain.
6. Read Genesis 1:26-27 aloud together and answer the following questions:
- a. What further insight about Jesus do we learn from these verses?
 - b. What truths about ourselves do we glean from the 6th day of creation?
7. With these verses and this discussion in mind, what would be an appropriate response to God, our Creator? Spend time in that response together as a group.

Leaders,

Each week, end your discussion with something **PRACTICAL** or something that can be intentionally held **ACCOUNTABLE**. This could be something you stack hands on as a group or it could be left to the individuals, but be intentional around this discussion. Use some of the questions below (or create your own) to help shape the takeaway:

- *With this discussion in mind, how is tomorrow and/or this upcoming week different for you?*
- *What is one practical tool you can use from this discussion?*
- *In light of the scriptures and discussion, are there any spiritual habits you can lean into more intentionally?*
- *What is a goal or next step you have for the coming week?*
- *What specific verse from above could be committed to memory to remind you of what God revealed?*

As a leader, who do you need to follow up with intentionally this week and why?