

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of July 24-30, 2022

"DON'T JUST GO TO CHURCH!"

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

If you were to be invited to the White House tomorrow to have dinner with the U.S. President, what preparations will you make?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

1. This text starts out by telling us to guard our steps when we go to house of God. Is this something that you have thought much about? How would you describe your typical mindset as you prepare to worship with your Living Word church family?
2. The word "fool" is repeated several times in our text (v.1,3,4). Why does the Teacher (writer of Ecclesiastes) say about the errors of the fool when he goes to the house of God?
3. Why do you think there is so much emphasis in this text on our speech? What do our words reveal about us? (See also Proverbs 25:11-12, James 3:9-10, Ephesians 4:29, Titus 3:1-2.)
4. Far too often, we treat God casually and we forget that he is an eternal God. How would it look like giving God the reverence he deserves as we gather for worship?
5. What is the advice given in verses 4-6 for those making vows? Have you ever made a commitment to God with a genuine intention of following through it? If not, how can you or your small group help support you in your pursuit of being faithful to your vows before the Lord?
6. Does your relationship with God have a P.S. attached to it? Or have you ever "bribed" God to do your bidding? How does it look like committing your service, time, and resources to the Lord without expecting anything in return?

7. The passage ends with the admonishment to stand in awe of God. What causes you to be in awe of God? In reflection, would you honestly say that this is still true of you or are you suffering from "awe" problem? What do you think is the reason?

8. NEXT STEPS

"Our God deserves nothing but the best that we can give."

- ☐ I will approach corporate worship with an eager expectation to hear from the Lord.
- ☐ I will come before God with the right posture, with reverence, and with honor.
- ☐ I will commit to do the vows I have made before the Lord.
- ☐ I will keep in mind that Christ is our firm and strong foundation.

Don't forget to:

- ☐ Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- ☐ Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.

CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for a heart that seeks to love the church and to commit to regularly attend church.
- Pray that God will use whatever gift and skill you have to advance his kingdom.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE.

July 25 Colossians 2:1-5

July 26 Exodus 40

July 27 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

July 28 Psalms 76:11

July 29 Nehemiah 9:38; 10:28-39

July 30 Acts 8:26-40

July 31 Mark 10:17-31