

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of June 11-17, 2023
"THE BURDEN OF SUCCESS"

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.

Share about your experience(s) from last week from your "strength in the Lord" journal. What testimony can you share to the group?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read 1 Chronicles 21

1. How does the act of conducting a census reveal the heart and motivations of King David in this passage? Why do you think David's decision to conduct a census was considered sinful in the eyes of God?
2. Reflect on a recent decision or action you took without seeking God's guidance. What could you have done differently to ensure you were aligning your actions with his will?
3. How did Joab respond to David's command, and what does his reaction reveal about his understanding of David's actions? Think of a time when you disagreed with a decision made by someone in authority over you. How did you handle the situation? How can you ensure that your response is rooted in humility, respect, and a desire for the best outcome?
4. As you read about the discipline and judgment of God in this passage, what was your initial reaction? How can you view God's discipline as an expression of his love and an opportunity for growth and transformation in your own life?
5. What was David's response to God's command to build an altar? How does his obedience and willingness to act demonstrate his understanding of the seriousness of his sin and his desire to seek God's favor? How does one cultivate that kind of a heart?

6. What is the role of sacrificial giving and generosity in your own worship? How can you develop a spirit of generosity towards God and others, reflecting a heart of gratitude and surrender?
7. What is your attitude towards prosperity? Consider the potential pitfalls and dangers of prosperity, such as the temptation to trust in wealth rather than in God. How can a Christian guard against these pitfalls and maintain a proper perspective on wealth and prosperity?
8. **NEXT STEPS**
In both failure and success, carrying our crosses humbles us, reminds us of our dependence on God, and shapes us into vessels of His grace and love.
 - ☐ I will embrace humility in both failure and success, recognizing that my achievements are not solely my own.
 - ☐ I will rely on God's strength and guidance during times of failure, finding the perseverance to overcome them.
 - ☐ I will seek God's forgiveness when I sin.

Don't forget to:

 - ☐ Go through the devotionals every day 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 please God, whether in times of success or failure.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- 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 GUIDE

June 12 Proverbs 19
June 13 Malachi 1
June 14 Ecclesiastes 4
June 15 2 Samuel 23-24
June 16 Mark 10:17-23
June 17 Luke 9:18-26
June 18 Psalms 117