

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of April 14-20, 2024

“THE PROMISE OF GLORY”

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.

What do you miss the most in your life right now that you used to enjoy doing? Why?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.

1. What does Paul mean when he said “though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day”? Does this perspective on enduring affliction challenge your own view of suffering and hardship? Does it inspire you to persevere?
2. How do daily spiritual practices such as prayer, meditation on Scripture, and worship nurture your inner self and draw closer to God?
3. Does Paul minimize the difficulty of suffering here (verse 17)? How can we reconcile this verse with the very real pain people experience? How can focusing on future glory provide comfort and strength during challenging times?
4. What does "seen" and "unseen" refer to in this context (verse 18)? What does it mean to “look at the things that are unseen”? How can the Christian cultivate faith in things he/she cannot see?
5. Read Matthew 6:19-21. What eternal treasure are you investing in today? Share something specific that you feel you believe is an eternal investment in your life today.
6. How can you live with an eternal perspective in the midst of life's trials and challenges? What practical steps can you take to keep your focus on the unseen and eternal rather than the temporary and transient? (See also Colossians 3:1-4.)

NEXT STEPS

“While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.” - 2 Corinthians 4:18

- I will shift my focus from temporary pleasures to lasting values.
- I will invest in my spiritual growth by being involved in regular prayer, Bible study, and worship.
- I will focus on the eternal.
- I will consider the long-term consequences of my choices and make decisions based on my values and faith.

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 that our words and actions inspire you to live for eternity.
- 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

April 15 2 Corinthians 4:7-12
April 16 2 Corinthians 4:13-18
April 17 Romans 11:33-36
April 18 Matthew 6:19-24
April 19 Hebrews 11:39-12:2
April 20 Psalms 4:1-8
April 21 Acts 15:12-21