Introduction: *Engage your group by stimulating their thinking.*

Ask your group if they remember playing the “trust” game. This is an activity where one person stands atop a platform of some sort and then is blindfolded and asked to fall backward and trust the two people below to catch him or her.

Then ask the following questions:

- What are some of the difficulties that this game possesses?
- Why do some people have a hard time trusting others?

Allow 2-3 people to answer before moving further into the Introduction content.

**Point 1: Present an article to stimulate thinking.**

Make copies of the following article and distribute them to your group members. Allow a few minutes for them to read and then ask a few of them for their insights.

> While I was doing some research for a writing project, I interviewed 24 people who had been prisoners during World War II. Although they had not been tortured or mistreated, they had suffered hunger, cold, separation, loss of privacy, and a gnawing uncertainty of what lay ahead. None of them spoke of their liberation without tears.

> I asked them, “How did your prison experience affect your life?” All of them said that during their year of confinement God had taught them lessons that had prepared them for their life’s work. But when I asked if they would have gone to the prison camp voluntarily, each one answered, “No!”

> Most of us would not choose difficult circumstances to help us learn to trust God. So, in His perfect wisdom He often will lead us into situations that can strengthen our faith.
The psalmist discovered God’s marvelous kindness while he was in a besieged city (Ps. 31:21). When surrounded and cut off by enemies, he feared the worst, but the Lord gave him strength and hope (v. 22).

God uses life’s “prison” experiences to teach us spiritual lessons we could learn in no other way. We can therefore praise Him and trust Him in any circumstance.


**Point 2: Engage group members by using “Think-Pair-Share” technique.**

Show your group members the video clip “Get On the Ark” (3 minutes) from the movie *Evan Almighty*: [https://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/evan-almighty/get-on-the-ark](https://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/evan-almighty/get-on-the-ark)

In this video, Evan Baxter has been summoned by God to build an ark, like Noah did. Even though he has been mocked by his family and friends, Evan builds the ark and it is used for the salvation of the community from a flood that occurs when the local dam breaks.

**Think-Pair-Share:** As your group members watch the video, ask them to think about the importance of Evan trusting God’s command to build the ark: “How did his trust in God’s message lead to the salvation of his community?” Then say, “**Think** for 30 seconds about this question. Now I want you to discuss this in **pairs** with a person on your left or right who is not your spouse.” (Pause for 60 seconds.) Call on 3-4 pairs to **share** one idea.

**Point 3: Help your group members relate to the topic.**

Ask the following questions:

- Have you ever been chosen to be part of a team or an elite group?
- How did that make you feel?
- How did becoming part of a team cause you to act?

Encourage 2-3 members to share about their experiences.
Conclusion: Challenge for application.

Throughout this session, we have been challenged to examine ourselves with regard to the application of the Word of God in our lives (e.g., praise, salvation, and service). As you read the Bible this week, ask God to give you one specific area of your life that He wants you to change through the application of His Word—and then do it!

Teaching Tip of the Week

Engaging learners is an important component of change—the goal of teaching. Most teachers don’t do this; rather, the student remains a passive listener. If you want to increase learning and retention, pursue active learning techniques and link the session to previous experiences.