

SCRIPTURE CARD GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

"THE PROSPERITY OF LEADERSHIP" FEBRUARY 11

SERIES OVERVIEW:

Biblical truth matters for a myriad of reasons... it is certainly for the power of the Gospel to save souls, but as well biblical doctrine reaches into the health of mind and spirit in faith communities. Mental and spiritual health, and Christian care and concern can be shaken and experience deep harm when biblical doctrines are erroneous. In this series we will address how often in American Christianity a buffet of doctrines suiting our desires are selected, resulting in confusion and pain, and can even distance us from Jesus Christ. However, true biblical teaching that takes in the whole counsel of God's Word, comforts us, strengthens us, and reassures us of the goodness and faithfulness of Jesus Christ.

Follow the directions below for a guided group discussion with a friend, in a family, small group, etc. Grab a Scripture Card (printed or electronic) and simply follow steps from 1 to 6 on this page and the next.

1

PRAY

About 1 minute

Open with popcorn prayer of praise to God remembering His attributes. Read Psalm 115:1 after each praise offered in prayer.

2

BIG IDEA

A minute to read

The Kingdom of God is not measured by the world's standards. Regardless of our earthly circumstances, our greatest joy and fulfillment is found in Jesus who calls us to follow Him, serve as He served, and to trust Him.

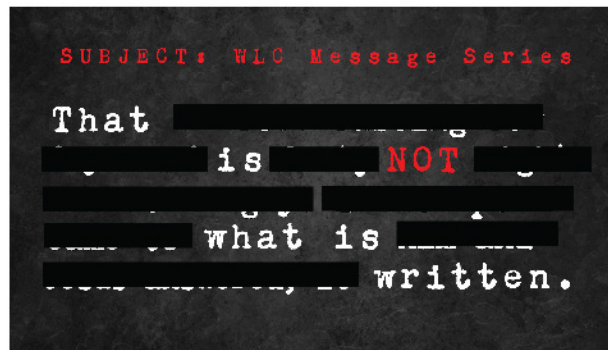
3

CONNECT

About 10 minutes

Describe someone in your life whose servant leadership has made a positive impact on you.

How would you describe a servant leader?



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[Jesus said,] "Then at the resurrection of the righteous, God will reward you for inviting those who could not repay you." - Luke 14:14

Reflect

Read the full passage in your Bible - Matthew 6:1-4; and Luke 14:12-14.

What is something that is grabbing your attention from the passage and why?

Notice that Jesus is always coming back to the heart, to why we do what we do.

How's your heart? How are you at giving to those who cannot repay?

4

DISCIPLE LIFE DISCUSSION

About 45-50 minutes. Read the Scripture above and discuss the questions there. Additional questions below.

Theology of Glory falsely looks at the prosperity of leadership as proof of prophetic standing and power. Conversely, Theology of the Cross recognizes the Church's leaders do not always meet the worldly standards of "success".

Read 1 Cor 3:5-7, 1 John 3:16, 1 Sam 16:7, and Isaiah 55:8-9. How is the "upside-down" Kingdom of God revealed in these Scriptures?

Read Hebrews 11:32-38 In what ways did listening to the Lord and following Him result in negative earthly consequences for these heroes of the faith? How do you see similar challenges for people today who may be persecuted for their faith?

Reflect: Do you hope to see earthly benefits in following Jesus or is your hope found in Christ alone?



DISCUSSION HELP:

Use follow-up questions to take the discussion deeper. Guide answers to be honest and real.

Can you say more about that?

How have you seen that play out in your life?

What does that stir up in you?

Has anyone else had a similar thought or experience?

What might God be inviting you to do?

5 PRAY:
About 15 minutes

Read the prayer prompts and allow for a time of reflection. Ask each person to write a personal prayer request on an index card with their name at the top. Pass the index cards one person to the right. Take the card home and pray for this person throughout the week. The leader will close with the prayer below leaving space for silent prayer where noted.

"Heavenly Father, in the midst of a world that clamors for recognition and seeks its own glory, teach us humility as we follow You serving others as You served. Search our hearts and mold our character to be more like You in this time of silent prayer now... [Allow a time of silent prayer] Grant us the grace to embrace the Theology of the Cross, where worldly standards of success fade in the light of your Kingdom, for You are the God who sees the heart. Give us perseverance to endure hardship and suffering for the sake of the Gospel knowing that our ultimate hope and joy is found in You alone. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen."

THE [DISCIPLE] LIFE

Pray

Talk to God about your heart, about what you are noticing.

Ask God to give you a renewed heart, one that is focused on generosity and on caring for others.

Thank God that his spirit is at work in you, transforming you from the inside out.

Live It Out

INVITATION: Ask God to bring to mind a situation in which he's calling you to reach out and care by meeting a practical need in some way. Pray for the situation.

CHALLENGE: In addition to this, make a plan to reach out. Do this with humility and even secrecy, avoiding drawing attention to yourself.

Jesus, thank you for inviting me into this LIFE of following you today!

6

LIVE IT OUT:

About 2 minutes

Read the "Live It Out" section and invite the group to take the steps noted.