

SCRIPTURE CARD GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

"PETER, JAMES AND JOHN - PREPARING THE WAY THROUGH US" DEC. 31

SERIES OVERVIEW:

After Adam and Eve's fall into sin, they received a promise that the Lord would not leave them in their brokenness. He would provide a Savior. He would prepare the way. Yet how God chooses to work is often surprising. God used people like Moses, Elijah, John the Baptist, and the disciples - who struggled with fear, doubt, anxiety, and depression - to prepare the way for the one who would ultimately come and save his people. In the birth of Jesus, we see God once again bringing about his plan in the most unlikely of ways. As followers of Jesus our broken lives have also been swept up in God's plan of redemption. He has placed us in this specific place and time to prepare the way for Him into the hearts of those around us. Not only will He do this in spite of our brokenness, but perhaps our brokenness is the very thing He will use to shine the power of His glory through us.

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 in prayer.

2

BIG IDEA

A minute to read

Peter, James, and John experience an incredible mountaintop experience as Jesus turns into his glorified self with Moses (representing the law) and Elijah (representing the prophets) standing next to Him. Jesus is the fulfillment of the law and the prophets. As Peter, James, and John descend down the mountain, they are charged with preparing the way for Jesus. We are sent with this same mission. We are called, despite all of our flaws and weaknesses, and we are sent to prepare the way for Jesus, by witnessing to the power of God in our own life and the transformation that he has brought us.

December 31, 2023

⁷ Then Jesus came over and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid." ⁸ And when they looked up, Moses and Elijah were gone, and they saw only Jesus. - Matthew 17:7-8

Reflect

Read the full passage in your Bible - Matthew 17:1-13.

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

Try to imagine yourself in this situation. How might you have responded?

These words are spoken by God in verse 5, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy. Listen to him." Ponder this...these words are also for you today.

4

DISCIPLE LIFE DISCUSSION

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

Describe why a personal story of how you've seen God at work in your life bringing transformation to you has more impact than a clever story or fancy speech.

What is one way God is making you more like Jesus lately?

Who in your life would you like to know Jesus? Share their first name with the group. How can you show the love of Jesus to them this week?

3

CONNECT

About 10 minutes

Share a high and a low since the group last met.



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.

Pair up. Share prayer requests with your partner based on the prayer prompts below. Pray now for your partner and the prayer requests shared.

THE [DISCIPLE] LIFE

Pray

Talk to God about the last bullet in *Reflect*. Ask him to help you listen to Jesus.

Peter, James, and John were called to prepare the way for Jesus in the world they lived in. Invite God to help you hear his call to do the same today.

Thank God that his words for them are also for you today, don't be afraid. Thank him that his perfect love drives out fear.

Live It Out

Slow down to remember God's transforming power at work in you, how he has been working, making you more and more like Jesus. He has called & equipped you to share your story with others who need to know the truth that God sent his son so that they might have life to the full. Watch for an opportunity to share this, with genuineness and love, this week.

**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.