

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Fellowshipping, Reviewing & Praying*Fall Semester 2017***FELLOWSHIP WITH EACH OTHER**

This first week back, linger longer in fellowship. Let group members catch up with one another. Don't immediately sit down in a circle and make things formal. Even when you do sit down and "start" a bit more formally, as folks to share how their break has been, how they've been encouraged recently, etc. In other words, don't act like CG is nothing other than a formal Bible study – it's so much more!

This week, review the purpose of CG and spend time in prayer for CG. After you do that, you will not have time to discuss Psalm 51 and Romans 12. Pick one and let that serve as the abbreviated discussion portion for your group.

REVIEW PURPOSE OF COMMUNITY GROUP

Don't feel the need to spend too much time here, but at least highlight and briefly review the purpose of Community Groups (Maturity, Mutual Care, and Mission). More information can be found in the CG Leader Handbook pages 17-19.

1. Remind the group of the three main purposes of CG then briefly discuss. As you discuss the below questions, try to bring in each element of CG (i.e. discussion, prayer, fellowship, accountability).
2. What does it mean to be a MATURE or maturing Christian? How does CG foster maturity?
3. How Does Community Group foster MUTUAL CARE?
4. How Does Community Group foster MISSION?

PRAY FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

This first week back, take time to pray for your CG and all other CGs. Below are some suggested ways to pray. Perhaps you could print them out and have various people pray accordingly. That's only a suggestion so feel free to pray as you see fit.

- **Unity in the Gospel:** That every CG member would put gospel unity above personal preference.
- **Maturity in Christ:** That we would help each other grow in Christ-likeness.
- **Mutual Care:** That we would care for each other both physically and spiritually.
- **Mission:** That CGs would be a place where non-Christians hear the gospel and a place where we encourage each other to advance the gospel.
- **Community/Family:** That there would be a deepening sense of family among all the members of our CG.

- **Vulnerability:** That our CG would be a place where sins are confessed and the gospel is humbly and appropriately shared with each other.
- **Conversions:** That the Lord would use CGs (and all of Restoration's ministries, both corporate and personal) to bring people to faith in Jesus.
- **Multiplication:** That the Lord would bring so many people to our CG that we would have to start another CG by the end of the year.
- **Delight:** That the Spirit would cause every person in our CG to find great delight in loving and pursuing Jesus.

APPLY // PSALM 51

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God's word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

1. Read Psalm 51.
2. What does this Psalm tell you about David's view of the character of God? How does this inform his/your understanding of sin?
3. How do you see David taking full ownership of his sin? (i.e. notice the use of "my" in the first couple of verses). In what ways are we tempted to soften sin? Why is it often hard for us to confess the seriousness of our sin? How does softening our sin diminish the cross of Christ?
4. How do you see David relying completely on God for forgiveness and restored fellowship? Why is it important that we have a gospel that forgives and restores fellowship with God?
5. In verse 13, David transitions into action (teaching others, praising God), what does this tell you about the fruit of repentance?
6. How has God used this Psalm to work the fruit of repentance into your life?

STUDY // ROMANS 12:1-2

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God's word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

1. Read Romans 3:19-26. What is Paul's main argument in these verses?
2. Notice the "therefore" in 12:1. Assuming 3:19-26 is a good summary of all that comes before 12:1, how does the "therefore" inform what we read in 12:1-2?
3. Paul appeals to the Romans "by the mercies of God." What does that mean and why would Paul base his appeal to them on this?
4. What does it mean to "present your bodies as a living sacrifice"? What might this begin to look like for us?
5. Paul says to not "be conformed to this world." What does that mean and why would Paul be so concerned about this issue? Name a couple ways the world tries to press you into its mold. Discuss how/why these things dishonor God and decrease our joy.
6. Verse 2 says we are "transformed by the renewal of your mind." How does that happen? What are some ways that this begins to take place in our lives? Why do you feel renewing your mind is necessary before you can know God's will?
7. What does it mean to discern what the will of God is?

- a. NOTE: Sometimes people see the “will of God” as some specific plan he has for our lives that we must somehow figure out (e.g. is going to this school or that school God’s will for me). However, this is not the primary way Scripture talks about God’s will. Biblically speaking, God’s will for us is our holiness – cf. 1 Thessalonians 4:3; 5:18. Therefore the “will of God” here is his will of command – what he calls us to do so that we might live holy and happy lives. If you want to read more, [this](#) is a good article/sermon.

8. General Bible study questions:

- a. What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
- b. What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
- c. How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
- d. How should I respond with my affections and my actions?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: How have you been?