

SERMON STUDY GUIDE
For the sermon preached on
6/21/2020:
“Choose to Remember”
Deut. 8:10-18

How to use the Study Guide During Our “Stay at Home” Online Group Meetings

Group life is even more critical during this incredible season. Over and over, group leaders are reporting that there is a new hunger to connect, share, pray, and meditate on Scripture together, and so we are making these guides available weekly and suggesting a new format during this season.

As you know, our Group Life’s vision is to “practice the way of Jesus.” And while Jesus never had to lead a Torah study over Zoom, he was strategic in his teaching ministry, and we want to be as well.

There are a number of differences between meeting in person and meeting online, ranging from the obvious to the subtle. One is, given our attention spans for online meetings, we want to encourage you to limit the length of your call between 45-60 minutes and we are calling this “Check-In Plus One.” Meaning, spend a few minutes checking in with your group and see if there are any new needs with them (or even amongst their neighbors). “The One” is to spend time in study. As our Stay at Home continues, our desire for meaningful content and interaction will grow. Given our new format, the study guides based on Sunday’s Sermon will be designed to be more application based (as opposed to unpacking the text with the Inductive Bible Study method). You might consider sharing the passage beforehand with your group in hopes that they might spend more time with the Scripture before the gathering.

As always, we are so grateful for you, your gifting, your servant leadership, and all that you do in practicing the way of Jesus in community.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Tim, on behalf of the Group Life Team

For the Leader: “Check-In Plus One”

Welcome everyone to the Zoom call and outline the goal of this call being 45 minutes. Spend 15-20 minutes checking in with one another, then move into a time of prayer, and then spend some time discussing the application of the Scripture passage.

A “Check-in” question might be, “How are you doing, and is there anything new that has arisen in your life or in your neighborhood that we can pray about?”

For the Group:

As mentioned, throughout our Stay at Home quarantine, we have shortened our study, given the confinements and attention spans on Zoom calls. So these three questions are designed to be less inductive and more practical. Let's get started.

This was a special service dedicated to all of our graduates and their families and featured a sermon from Jon Kim, Pastor of Lexington H.S. Ministries. Pastor Bryan dressed in cap and gown sets up a time of worship and words of advice from various graduates of different grades throughout our church. So as an icebreaker, what is one piece of advice that you would give graduating high school students graduating in 2020?

Q – Reading from Deuteronomy 8:10-18, Pastor Jon's first point was to "Remember the faithfulness of God." There is a danger in accomplishment that you might forget God (vs. 11) in the midst of the success. Why do you think that is and what is about accomplishment that blinds us to God?

Q – Moses' other concern is that the Israelites will become prideful (vs. 14). Jon illustrated this point by reflecting back on a time when he became prideful after winning an award in seminary. The truth is we have all struggled with pride and so what personal example comes to mind of success or accomplishment resulting in your own prideful behavior?

(Leader's note: Usually, you don't answer first to your own question. But sometimes it helps prime the pump of conversation, especially for questions that are personal like this one. So similar to Jon's, have a short example ready to go).

Q - There is both insight and life application in understanding that key distinction in Rick Warren's quote, "Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less." How might understanding this change your attitude and action when it comes to growing in humility?

Q – The sermon is about remembering the sacrifices of others and the faithfulness of God. Whether it be a personal one or one that inspires you, what sacrifices in your life have marked you to love God and to serve others?

For our closing, let us reflect on the faithfulness of God for a silent minute and let us thank the Lord for graduation milestones, for the sacrifices that others have blessed us with, and for God's love and strength that sustains us on our journey.