



SERMON STUDY GUIDE
For the sermon preached on
4/26/2020:
“The Great Reveal”
I Peter 2:11-12

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 suddenly, 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, “Now that we have completed 4 weeks of our Stay at Home quarantine, 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 (it's not you, it's the difference of interacting over screens versus physically being together in person :). So these three questions are designed to be less inductive, and more practical. So let's get started.

This is Week 2 in our new series called, "What Now" and Pastor Adam Rowe preached a message on identity called, "The Great Reveal."

Q – In the introduction, Adam mentioned classic movie reveals like who Darth Vader really was and a classic movie line from the Princess Bride. To start our study on the lighter side, what have been some of your favorite movie reveals, or startling plot twists, or surprise endings? *(If you need help, here are some surprise endings: The Sixth Sense, The Village, Citizen Kane, The Usual Suspects, The Departed, The Prestige.)*

Q – Here is one of the key reveals Peter gives in his letter:

"Dear friends, I warn you as "temporary residents and foreigners" to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world."

1 Peter 2:11-12

How do these words shape our identity and how do they inform how we live in everyday life? Further, what does this mean in the midst of our Stay-at-Home quarantine?

Q – What has attacked your self-understanding of identity and what can we do to guard and inform our healthy identity?

Closing thought: Attacks can include the variety of messages we receive throughout society such as "Your worth is determined by your age, your talent, your wealth or lack thereof, your failures, your success, etc." Self-doubt attacks your identity and so does holding on to envy, lust, and pride. Identity will always be compromised, incomplete, and partially false.

For the Christ-follower, guarding and shaping our identity come from the words of Scripture and the leading of the Holy Spirit. It's in Scripture and Spirit that we can discover the way of Jesus, and grow in the identity that the Father has given us.

As we pray tonight, let's ask God to give us "reveal moments" that will continue to shape our identity more and more like Jesus. Let's pray ...