

GROUP GUIDE

An Honest Mother's Day

Welcome to the group guide. This liturgy will serve as a guide for your time with your group.

HANG OUT

ENGAGE

Begin this section 10–15 minutes before the group starts. Ask questions like, how was your day? What did you have for dinner? Keep the heavier conversation for the larger group setting.

PRAYER

As we jump into Group, let's dedicate this time to the Lord.

CONNECT

Question of the day: "What's a joyful memory you have about a mother figure in your life?"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All month we are celebrating AAPI month, and we encourage you to take time to find meaningful ways to love on and learn about our Asian brothers and sisters, even if there's no one in your group right now. We are a people that find ways to celebrate the diversity that shows up in our community!

We are halfway through the spring groups season, and this is a great time to start identifying new facilitators who have potential in your group. Plant a seed, and let your members know that our Groups Team is looking for 2–3 new table leaders to start a summer in-person Connect Group on Sunday mornings. We would love to come alongside them to equip them.

Also, next week we'll be taking Communion together in groups. If you're meeting virtually vs. in-person, start thinking through how to prepare your members to bring the elements that represent the broken body, and shed blood of Jesus.

GO DEEPER CHECK IN

Beyond songs and sermons, we invite followers of Jesus to Go Deeper by nurturing rhythms and practices of personally spending time with Him and enjoying His love. Use any of these questions to check in with your group members and encourage them.

- What did you enjoy the most about your devotion time this past week? What challenged you?
- Was there a moment where you felt the love or delight of God this past week?
Share what that was like if you're willing.
- What did you learn about yourself and the Holy Spirit this past week?
- How can we support or encourage you in your faithfulness over the next week?

WATCH - VIDEO

Share your screen so that your group can engage with this video:

Note: if you have headphones, you need to unplug/disconnect them in order for your group to hear the video on Zoom. The video also plays better if participants turn off their screens. Play video in its entirety.

ENGAGE - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are a guide for the conversation. Trust the Holy Spirit to guide this conversation. Use one of these questions, or use all of them. Trust the flow of the conversation based on what the Holy Spirit is doing.

EPHESIANS 1:3-5 NIV

"3 PRAISE BE TO THE GOD AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, WHO HAS BLESSED US IN THE HEAVENLY REALMS WITH EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING IN CHRIST. 4 FOR HE CHOSE US IN HIM BEFORE THE CREATION OF THE WORLD TO BE HOLY AND BLAMELESS IN HIS SIGHT. IN LOVE 5 HE PREDESTINED US FOR ADOPTION TO SONSHIP THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS PLEASURE AND WILL."

Reflective Questions from Video

Give your groups 2-minutes of silence to reflect on the question just asked.

This week what is one way that you can begin to live into your spiritual reality - the truth of your identity in Christ?

Observation Questions

According to this week's passage, why did God choose to adopt us as his children?

Interpretation Questions

In your own words, share what it means to be blessed "in the heavenly realms with every spiritual

blessing in Christ”?

Reflection Questions

Think about a situation where you saw someone’s identity drastically shaping the way they lived. What did you see?

How would you describe your attachment to God? How has it been influenced by your experiences in other relationships?

Application Questions

What are 2 ways your life would be different if you fully believed and were constantly aware of the fact that God has chosen you to be one of his beloved children?

What could be some roadblocks to developing a more secure attachment with God this week? How could this community support you in that?

PRAY

Ask each individual to either (1) share their prayer request or (2) type their prayer request in the chat of the zoom call in a 60-second window then pray for the group.

END

Time: End Group around after an hour and 15 minutes. Atmosphere: Upbeat, celebratory.