

PART 6

CONFESS TO HIM

GROUP GUIDE

1

HANG OUT

Time: Begin the section below 10 - 15 minutes before the group starts.

Engage

Start off light and ask simple questions like, how was your day? What did you have for dinner? Keep the heavier conversation for the larger group setting.

Prayer of Dedication

Invite one person to dedicate your time to the Lord. “Heavenly Father, We come to you today asking for your guidance, wisdom, and support as we begin this meeting. Help us engage in meaningful discussion; allow us to grow closer as a group and nurture the bonds of community. Amen.”

Connect

Question of the day:

“What are you looking forward to this summer?”

2

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Let's get current! Here you'll find all the important things your community should know about! It could be logistical, upcoming events, or just general church-wide things happening in the life of Fellowship. We commit to keeping you in the know.

Baptism Classes on June 25th & June 27th

Here at Fellowship, baptisms are one of our favorite celebrations. Our next classes are on Sunday, June 25th at Monrovia High School and Tuesday, June 27th online. If you're interested in getting baptized at our Sunday gatherings, at the beach this summer or a private location of your choosing, we'd love to connect with you. For more information and to register visit:

madeforfellowship.com/baptism

3

GO DEEPER CHECK-IN

Beyond the songs and sermons of our services, we invite followers of Jesus into a weekly rhythm of personally spending time with Him and enjoying His love. This section is designed to give you a communal space to check in with each other about the fruit of your personal practice. Feel free to use the weekly Go Deeper Guide on the website if you need support, but if you have your own rhythm, these questions will still apply.

1. What did you enjoy the most about your personal devotion time this past week? What challenged you the most?
2. Was there a moment when you felt God's love or delight this past week? Share the experience if you're willing.
3. What did you learn about yourself or your relationship with God this past week?
4. How can this community support or encourage you in your faithfulness in following Jesus over the next week?

4

READ THE PASSAGE

Let's study together! Use this section to dive deeper into scripture, make observations and take notes. Once you complete this, then move to the video and discussion questions. **Read John 20:24-29.**

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

5

ENGAGE VIDEO & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Watch the LifeGroup video, then use these questions to help guide your group conversation. Feel free to use one or all of them. Trust the flow of the conversation based on what the Holy Spirit is doing in your unique group.

Reflective question from Video

How do Christians make it hard or challenging to confess in community? How can Christians make it easy or encourage confession in community?

Observation

Before this encounter with Jesus, Thomas heard reports from the other disciples that Jesus was alive. Even though he heard direct accounts from his friends, he still doubted. Looking at the passage, what kind of proof was Thomas looking for in order to believe that Jesus was alive? What stands out to you about Jesus' response to Thomas?

Confess Sin

In his sermon, Albert referenced Genesis 3:6-13 and said, “confession must be a daily spiritual practice because sin is a daily human practice.” Why is it important to confess our sins to God and trustworthy brothers or sisters in Christ? What are the characteristics of someone you can practice confession with? With whom do you regularly practice confession? Consider how some of the following sins show up in your life: pride, greed, envy, avoidance, deceit, exaggeration, gossip. Is there anything you need to confess that our group can pray for you about today?

Confess Doubt

As we see with Thomas in the passage above, Jesus engages with Thomas’s doubt. What does Jesus’ response to Thomas tell us about how doubts are viewed by God? Why is it important that we share our doubts directly with God? What are some spiritual doubts or questions that you have that you’d like to process? (Note: this is not a time to try to solve or explain away what other people are wrestling with. Instead focus on creating space for these doubts to be shared)

Confess Truth

After encountering Jesus, Thomas ended up confessing the truth about him when he exclaimed, “My Lord and My God!” Why is it important to publicly confess the truth about who Jesus is? What truth about God have you experienced and are you able to confess this season? Has God given you a word, scripture, or promise that comes to mind?

6 PRAY

Wrap up your group session in prayer. Throughout your group journey, a regular rhythm of prayer is so important! It can also look very different from week to week, so we encourage you to discuss how it could be expressed in your meeting. Make sure you balance opportunities to pray for individual requests as well as the Kingdom of God at large. Consider having someone be responsible for keeping track of a group prayer journal. We’ll also make some recommendations from time to time. **This week take time to pray for your group members to be courageous in their confessions, vocal in their doubts, and trusting in their worship.**