

GROUPS STUDY GUIDE

Why Would I Prepare BEFORE My Lighthouse Group?

Reading, thinking, and praying about the primary passage your Lighthouse Group is studying ahead of time may be one of the most pivotal ways to make your Lighthouse Group discussions powerful and meaningful. When you do prepare beforehand, you're coming with thoughtful insights and ideas you've been wrestling through. That's different from grabbing at the most accessible thoughts in real time.

How Do I Prepare BEFORE My Lighthouse Group?

1 | PRAY

Ask God to open your eyes, mind, and spirit to His truth. Your desire is not to "get the right answer," but rather to know Him as He has revealed Himself so that you can trust and rely on Him more fully.

2 | READ

Read the main passage. Consider reading the same passage in multiple versions, like ESV, NIV, AMP, and NLT. All of these can be found at BibleGateway.com. For better context, read the paragraphs before and after the study passage as well.

3 | REFLECT

What does this passage teach you about God? Maybe something to praise Him for? Does this passage reveal an area of your life you should confess as sin to God? What does this passage lead you to ask God for? How does this passage point to Jesus' work on the cross and out of the grave? Think through some of the questions you'll be discussing during your Lighthouse Group time

4 | WRITE

This is when you cross over from reading into study – writing down truth that you are discovering. Write down questions that come to mind as you are reading. We've included space on the next page of this guide for you to write down insights, questions, and more that you can bring up in your Lighthouse Group discussion time.

5 | GROUP PRAYER

Rather than going around the group and sharing prayer requests, you might consider simply bowing your heads and taking turns praying for the things on your heart or that the Holy Spirit brings to mind.

PREP BEFORE GROUP

PRIMARY PASSAGE: PRIMARY PASSAGE: MATTHEW 14:13-21 WRITE YOUR INSIGHTS & QUESTIONS

ADDITIONAL CROSS-REFERENCES: Exodus 4:2; 1 Kings 17:8-16; Mark 6:31-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-13; Acts 3:1-10; James 2:14-17

DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of: February 16-22, 2026

1 | PRAY: Ask the Holy Spirit to lead your group in truth and spiritual growth.

2 | WARM-UP QUESTION: Which is more important: doing charitable works for the needy (providing food, clothing, shelter), or sharing the gospel with the lost?

3 | READ MATTHEW 14:13-21

Once you've read the passage, close your Bibles and ask the group to tell what happened from memory. Invite everyone to join in by asking, "What happened first?" and "What happened next?", and finally, "Was there anything else?"

4 | OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

When Jesus saw a huge crowd waiting for him on the shore, what was his response?

When his disciples suggested he send the people away to get themselves some supper, what did Jesus say, v. 16?

What do the twelve basketfuls of leftover bread say about Jesus' ability to provide? (Was it necessary to make that big of a statement?)

5 | TRUTH QUESTIONS

What was Jesus' intention for taking this boat trip, v. 13? Why did he not seem frustrated when the crowd disrupted his plan?

This is one of the few miracles related in all four gospel accounts. Why might the Holy Spirit have wanted it to be recorded four times?

What role did the disciples play in all this?



6 | APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Is it possible for me to be prepared for every eventuality? What's the line between personal responsibility and reliance on Jesus?

What's my typical response when I see someone in need? Do I send them away? Or do I take the need to Jesus and do what he tells me, even when it doesn't make sense?

How often do I feel like the best I can offer isn't enough? How accurate is that assessment?

7 | OPEN PRAYER

Based on our discussion, how should we pray? Is the Holy Spirit leading someone to yield what they have to Jesus for him to use as only he can?

NEXT STEPS AFTER GROUP



1 | SCRIPTURE FOCUSED

- Verse to Memorize
- Other Passages to Read

2 | PRAYER FOCUSED

- How can you pray for people in your group this week?
- Is the Holy Spirit speaking to you about something you need to repent of and turn over to Jesus?
- How are you going to respond to this truth and put it into action?

3 | OTHERS FOCUSED

- Did anyone in your group share a need that you might be gifted to help with?
- Consider inviting a friend from group to meet up for a meal or a hang-out time.
- Is the Holy Spirit bringing someone to mind with whom you can share the things you've learned today?

