

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: MATTHEW 14:22-36

WRITE YOUR INSIGHTS & QUESTIONS

ADDITIONAL CROSS-REFERENCES: Psalm 89:9; Isaiah 43:2; Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; 6:45-56; Luke 8:22-25; John 6:16-24.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of: February 23–March 1, 2026

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

2 | WARM-UP QUESTION: Can you think of a time when you trusted God for something at the beginning, but then fear or uncertainty took over?

3 | READ MATTHEW 14:22-36
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

Why were the disciples out on the lake in a boat on a stormy night without Jesus?

When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water and thought they were seeing a ghost, why did Jesus tell them to not be afraid?

In v. 33, what was the disciples' reaction to what had just happened? Why do you think they said what they did?

5 | TRUTH QUESTIONS
What does this incident tell us about Jesus (who he is, what he does, etc.)?

What does the disciples' fear tell us about them? Are people who follow Jesus today any different?

What does this incident tell us about the problems and perplexing situations that confront us?



6 | APPLICATION QUESTIONS

As a disciple of Jesus, I'm walking in faith and everything's great—but then, all of a sudden, things get scary. What's my natural response? In a case like that, how does Jesus call his disciples to respond?

Do all of life's storms come as a result of bad choices we've made, or does God sometimes allow them to happen so we might learn to trust him? Even if our problems are consequences of our sin, can Jesus meet us where we are and walk with us all the way through to the other side?

Was there a point in your life when you saw that Jesus is God? What changed with that realization?

7 | OPEN PRAYER

Based on our discussion, how should we pray? Does someone need the faith to follow Jesus in a stormy situation? Is someone wrestling to accept the deity of Jesus?

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?

