

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.

PREP BEFORE GROUP

PRIMARY PASSAGE: COLOSSIANS 3:1-7

WRITE YOUR INSIGHTS & QUESTIONS

ADDITIONAL CROSS-REFERENCES: Romans 6:1-14;
Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 1:18-21; 2:1-6.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of: January 26 – February 1, 2026

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

2 | WARM-UP QUESTION: When trying to break a bad habit, is it more effective to just quit doing it, or to deliberately replace it with a good habit instead?

3 | READ COLOSSIANS 3:1-7
Once you've read the passage, close your Bibles and ask the group to summarize what Paul is saying here. Invite everyone to join in by asking, "What is he saying the believers in Colosse should do?" and "Why does he say they should do that?" and finally, "Was there anything else?"

4 | OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

To whom is this written (1:2)?

Paul sees a separation between the "above" and the "earthly." How are they different?

The Bible speaks of God's coming judgment all through both Testaments. What does Paul say is the reason for God's wrath?

5 | TRUTH QUESTIONS
What does it mean to be "raised with Christ"? Is this just a figure of speech, or does it describe a genuine reality?

In v. 4, what does it mean "when Christ appears"? What event(s) coincide with that? How does this relate to the statement that Christ "is your life"?

What does it mean to put your earthly nature to death?



6 | APPLICATION QUESTIONS

If I'm a Christ-follower, is there a noticeable difference in my words, behaviors, and/or attitudes since I put my faith in Him? Why or why not?

Do I long for a different kind of life? Is it possible I can find that in Christ?

Is there any benefit to maintaining the old habits of my earthly nature? Why might I be reluctant to give them up?

7 | CLOSING PRAYER

Based on our discussion, how should we pray? Is the Holy Spirit is leading someone to make a specific decision?

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?

