

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: MATTHEW 14:1-12 WRITE YOUR INSIGHTS & QUESTIONS

ADDITIONAL CROSS-REFERENCES: Proverbs 27:15-16; Mark 6:14-29;
Luke 3:1-20; 9:7-9; 2 Timothy 1:7

DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of: February 9-15, 2026

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

2 | WARM-UP QUESTION: Which do you value more: other people's view of you, or God's? (For that matter, how does God see you?)

3 | READ MATTHEW 14:1-12

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, "Anything else?"

4 | OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

What was Herod's first thought when he heard about Jesus and his miracles? Why might he have thought that?

Being so concerned about fame and image, Herod might have been pleased to know he'd be still be remembered 2000 years after his death. How likely is it that his legacy is what he'd hoped it would be?

How much influence did Herod's wife have over his actions? Those of his household?

5 | TRUTH QUESTIONS

A tetrarch was ruler over a quarter of that region. What kind of leadership qualities does Herod the tetrarch display in this passage?

Does it seem Herod's powerful position gave him a feeling of security and strength? Why do you get that impression?

Why might Herod have made the vow he made in v. 7?



6 | APPLICATION QUESTIONS

When God points out a sin in my life—whether through the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit's conviction, and/or another person's admonition—what's my best response?

What's the difference between finding satisfaction in my position or circumstances, and finding satisfaction in my relationship with God?

Do I have a satisfying relationship with God? Is such a thing even attainable? How is it found?

7 | CLOSING PRAYER

What is God saying to us through this passage? Is the Holy Spirit drawing someone to faith in Jesus? Can we pray for someone to yield job, position, and/or prospects to the Lord?

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?

