

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 13:36–43

WRITE YOUR INSIGHTS & QUESTIONS

ADDITIONAL CROSS-REFERENCES: Isaiah 17:5; Joel 3:12–16; Matthew 13:24–30; 15:13–15; 1 John 3:7–10; Revelation 14:14–20

DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of: November 3–9, 2025

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

2 | WARM-UP QUESTION: Do you see yourself more as: 1) one who's exploring the gospel but not yet all in with Jesus; or, 2) already a citizen of Christ's kingdom? What in your life demonstrates this?

3 | READ Matthew 13:36–43

Once you've read the passage, close your Bibles and ask the group to tell the parable and its explanation 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

Who asked Jesus for this explanation, and when did they ask him?

Does Jesus speak theoretically, or does he present this "weeding out" scenario as one that will definitely happen at a definite time?

How many categories of people are in this parable? Does it sound as if a person can have a foot in both camps at the same time?

5 | TRUTH QUESTIONS

The servants (v. 27–29) and harvesters (v. 30) are separate entities with different tasks. Jesus told his disciples the harvesters are angels, but who do the servants represent? What is the servants' role in the kingdom, and what are they not to do?

Who/what do the angels remove from the kingdom? What remains?

Is there a point in this Judgment Day event where people are given an opportunity to make a last-minute decision before the "weeding out" begins?



6 | APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- When Jesus says something I don't understand, who do I ask for an explanation?
- What does this parable cause me to think about?
- How does Jesus' explanation of the parable comfort me? What part of this whole thing makes me uncomfortable? Why?

7 | CLOSING PRAYER

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

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?

