

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 15:21-28

WRITE YOUR INSIGHTS & QUESTIONS

ADDITIONAL CROSS-REFERENCES: Psalm 55:22; Matthew 9:20-22, 27-31; 10:5-7; Luke 19:10; John 3:17; Acts 10:34-36; Ephesians 2; 1 Peter 5:6-7

DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of: March 9-15, 2026

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

2 | WARM-UP QUESTION: What does it mean to have “great faith”? How does that differ from positive thinking?

3 | READ MATTHEW 15:21-28

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

What do we know about this woman who cried out for help?

What did her desperation drive her to do?

What does this situation tell us about the disciples and their mindset? About Jesus and his purposes?

5 | TRUTH QUESTIONS

If Jesus came only for the lost sheep of Israel, why might he have gone to this Gentile region?

What’s the significance of the woman’s appeal to Jesus as the “Son of David”?

What separates “great” faith from simply acknowledging Jesus as the Messiah?



6 | APPLICATION QUESTIONS

When you have a spiritual problem, do you ever feel unworthy to go to Jesus about it? Why or why not?

When you pray about something and get no immediate answer, what goes through your mind? How can you know which of those thoughts are valid, and which are lies the unredeemed world tells you?

Is there any person, type of person, or people group that doesn't need faith to call upon Jesus? Is there any person, type of person, or people group that Jesus will turn away even if they have genuine faith in Him?

7 | OPEN PRAYER

Based on our discussion, how should we pray? Is anyone struggling to see someone else as deeply loved by God, though "a lost sheep"? Does someone feel unworthy of Jesus' redeeming touch? Is the Holy Spirit putting it on anyone's heart to share the gospel with those who desperately need to hear it?

8 | 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.

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?

