

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 13:53–58

WRITE YOUR INSIGHTS & QUESTIONS

ADDITIONAL CROSS-REFERENCES: Isaiah 61:1–2; Matthew 16:13–20; Luke 4:16–30; John 6:41–48; Acts 4:10–20; Romans 10:9–13

DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of: November 24–30, 2025

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 didn't recognize the qualities of someone (or something) because you were too familiar with them?

3 | READ Matthew 13:53–58

Once you've read the passage, close your Bibles and ask the group to recount it 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 was Jesus' audience on this occasion?

What did the people of Nazareth's lack of faith have to do with why Jesus didn't do many miracles there?

How did Jesus respond when the people who'd known him all his life rejected Him?

5 | TRUTH QUESTIONS

Is there a difference between the Jesus portrayed in the scriptures and the Jesus you grew up hearing about? If so, which is the real Jesus?

Did he really have all those brothers and sisters? Why might Matthew have included this in his account?

Jesus knew most of the people in his hometown wouldn't accept what he had to say, but he went anyway. Is it important to share the truth with people we don't think will receive it? Why?



6 | APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- In that culture, it was a normal thing for Jesus to teach in the synagogue. What normal things can I do that might be an opportunity to share the gospel?
- Is the Holy Spirit urging me to let go of any preconceived ideas I've long held, and accept what the scriptures say instead?

- Do I believe Jesus is who the Bible says he is? If not, what would have to happen for me to change my mind?

7 | CLOSING PRAYER

Based on our discussion, how should we pray? Does anyone need prayer about sharing the gospel with a close friend or family member?

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?

