

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 13:44–46

WRITE YOUR INSIGHTS & QUESTIONS

ADDITIONAL CROSS-REFERENCES: Isaiah 43:4; 55:1–3; Matthew 6:19–21; 19:16–26; Mark 8:36; 2 Corinthians 4:18; Philippians 3:7–11; Hebrews 12:2.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of: November 17–23, 2025

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

2 | WARM-UP QUESTION: What do you value more than anything else?
What are you willing to give up to get it?

3 | READ Matthew 13:44–46

Once you've read the passage, close your Bibles and ask the group to tell the parables from memory.

4 | OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

To what is the kingdom of heaven compared in the first parable? In the second?

In v. 44, is the man searching for treasure when he finds it? Is the man searching in v. 45?

What does each man do when he discovers this treasure? Why do you think he does that?

Does Jesus ever explain what the elements in these parables represent? Can we know for sure what they mean?

5 | TRUTH QUESTIONS

How is the kingdom of heaven like a treasure?

What must we pay to obtain the kingdom? (Also see Is. 55:1–3.)

What price did Jesus pay for the “field” of the world, so that we might enter the kingdom?

What is spiritual treasure (see Mt. 6:19–21)? Is it difficult to put a greater value on spiritual treasure than money and possessions? Why?



6 | APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- How do I determine something's worth? (See Philippians 3:7-11.)
- Am I a searcher? If so, what am I seeking? If not, have I ever found something wonderful I hadn't looked for, and how did I stumble upon it?
- When I discover spiritual treasure, does it give me joy (v. 44)? If so, how do I express that joy, or what action does it prompt me to take?

- Parables are intended to make us think. What do these parables cause me to think about?

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?

