

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 13:31–35

WRITE YOUR INSIGHTS & QUESTIONS

ADDITIONAL CROSS-REFERENCES: Psalm 78:1–8; Isaiah 61:11; Matthew 17:20–21; 1 Corinthians 3:7; Philipians 1:3–6.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of: October 27 – November 2, 2025

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

2 | READ Matthew 13:31–35

One volunteer reads the passage in the ESV or NIV. Another volunteer reads the passage in AMP or NLT.

3 | CONSIDER SITUATIONAL/HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Jesus continues to teach the people through parables—stories that use familiar physical things to give us insight on spiritual truth. The everyday things he talks about are pictures anyone can recognize; but like with an optical illusion, not everyone understands what they illustrate. Both of the parables in this passage describe an aspect of the kingdom of heaven.

The Jews had been looking for their Messiah to come and establish His kingdom on earth. They hoped for a political kingdom; but by shedding his blood to pay the price for our sin and then defeating death itself by rising from the grave, Jesus delivered an eternal, spiritual kingdom instead. We become citizens of that kingdom when we put our faith in him as our Redeemer and King.

4 | DISCUSSION: CONTENT QUESTIONS

In each parable, what does Jesus say the kingdom is like?

What characteristic of the kingdom does each story portray?

Is this kingdom something new, or has it always existed in heaven (v.35)?

TRUTH QUESTIONS

Why do these illustrations show ordinary men and women participating in the kingdom's growth?

We understand plants growing and bread rising, but what does the growth of Christ's kingdom look like?

After planting seeds and mixing dough, how much control does the planter or the baker have over what happens next?

Does mankind control the spread of Christ's kingdom, or is that something only God can do?



APPLICATION/PERSONAL QUESTIONS

- If you've put your faith in Jesus, are you aware that you're now in His kingdom?
- How is the Holy Spirit speaking to you through this passage?
- How can I participate in the kingdom of heaven today?



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?

