

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 13:47–52

WRITE YOUR INSIGHTS & QUESTIONS

ADDITIONAL CROSS-REFERENCES: Matthew 4:18–22; 25:31–46; Mark 12:28–34; John 5:28–30; 2 Peter 3:8–10.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of: November 10–17, 2025

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

2 | WARM-UP QUESTION: Do you understand all of Jesus' parables? What do you do when you read one but just don't get it?

3 | READ Matthew 13:47–52

Once you've read the passage, close your Bibles and ask the group to tell the parable of the fishermen and the net from memory. Invite everyone to join in by asking, "What happened first?" and "What happened next?," and finally, "Was there anything else?" Then do the same with the parable about the scribe/teacher of the law.

4 | OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

From what Jesus said in vv. 49–50, what do the fish represent? Who are the fishermen who cast in the net and then sort the catch?

How is the scribe/teacher of the law specifically described in v. 52?

In the context of the parable of the scribe, what are these old and new treasures?

5 | TRUTH QUESTIONS

Does Jesus speak of this sorting out as something that will happen to some people; or it might happen depending on how we play our cards; or will it definitely happen to everyone?

How does God determine who's righteous and who's wicked?

Is there treasure in the law that the religious leaders of Jesus' day studied and taught? Or did all that stuff become unimportant when Jesus rose from the dead?



6 | APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- What surprises or challenges me in this passage?
- What does this passage reveal about God and His character? About His kingdom? How do I respond to these revelations?
- Do I enjoy studying the scriptures and finding the treasures there? Do I like showing them to others?

7 | CLOSING PRAYER

Based on our discussion, how should we pray? Has someone in the group shared a situation we can all pray about?

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?

