

# 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: MARK 8:1-13 WRITE YOUR INSIGHTS & QUESTIONS

ADDITIONAL CROSS-REFERENCES: 2 Kings 2:42-43; Matthew 4:23-25;  
9:36; 14:13-21; 15:29-39; Mark 6:33-44.

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of: **March 16-22, 2026**

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

**2 | WARM-UP QUESTION:** Is it possible to plan for every contingency? Where should personal responsibility yield to trusting in God?

### **3 | READ MARK 8:1-13**

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**

How long had the crowd been with Jesus before he told the disciples to feed them? Was this likely the same people the whole time, or might they have been coming and going?

What was Jesus' motivation in wanting to provide for them? Is his compassion earned, or offered freely to all?

What did the Pharisees demand from Jesus?

### **5 | TRUTH QUESTIONS**

Jesus did something similar earlier, when he fed thousands of people with five loaves and two fish. What does this say about his power? His generosity? His compassion? His consistency?

Is there anything in this passage that says the crowd asked Jesus to feed them?

Why might the Pharisees have been dissatisfied with the miracles they were seeing? What does this tell us about the Pharisees and their expectations?



## 7 | OPEN PRAYER

Based on our discussion, how should we pray? Does someone struggle with who Jesus is? Is the Holy Spirit leading someone to trust Jesus for their provision?

## 6 | APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Do I ever feel like I'm not getting enough from Jesus? What do I do when that happens?

Do I hesitate to go to Jesus for fear I won't find what I'm looking for?

Is God's provision always supernatural, or does He sometimes use people who distribute to others what He's given them?

# 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?

