

## Guide for Growth Group Hosts

### Growing in Favor With God (LOADING... Message Series)

#### **THINK ABOUT IT**

What was your favorite point from this week's message?

#### **MAIN GROWTH GROUP SCRIPTURE**

*And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man. **Luke 2:52 (NIV)***

#### **DISCOVERY QUESTIONS**

- We learned that favor is the guarantee of His presence and the provision of His power to accomplish His special purpose in and through our life. What do you think is the special purpose that God wants to accomplish through your life?
- (Read the Verse Below) We must remember that favor isn't fair. God gives it, we don't earn it. Have you ever witnessed God blessing someone else and felt that it wasn't fair? (Example: You felt that God should have blessed you instead or you felt that they didn't deserve the blessing, etc.)

*"God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it." **Ephesians 2:8-9 (NLT)***

- (Read the Verse Below) We position ourselves for God's favor by focusing on becoming the right "who" before finding the right "do". What area in relation to God's Word (the Bible) do you need to work on in your own life?

*God's will is for you to be holy... **1 Thessalonians 4:3 (NLT)***

- (Read the Verse Below) As we position ourselves for God's favor we should always be mindful of the motives behind our actions. Why is that important?

*You may think everything you do is right, but the Lord judges your motives.  
**Proverbs 16:2 (GNT)***

- (Read the Verse on the Next Page) Another way that we can position ourselves for God's favor is by analyzing if we are trying to please other people with our actions. Why is it important that pleasing people NOT be the main motivation or focus of our actions? Why is it important that the main focus of our lives NOT revolve around pleasing ourselves?

*Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ. **Galatians 1:10 (NIV)***

- (Read the Verse Below) God doesn't give us His favor for our convenience. He gives us His favor for His purpose. What are some ways that you can prevent yourself from abusing the opportunities that come into your life as a result of God's favor?

*And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. **Colossians 3:17 (NIV)***

- (Read the Verse Below) If you are becoming the right "who", God will help you choose the right "do". If you're driven by the right "why", God will lead you to the right "what". Has there ever been a time in your life where you were not driven by the right "why"? How were you able to realign your "why" with God's Word? Discuss this in the group.

*"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."*

**Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)**

## **DIVE DEEPER**

Go deeper during the week!

- Commit to using the **Summer Bible Reading Plan** to go through the Gospels or New Testament this summer: <https://experienceheritage.org/summer-reading-plan>
- Read the **daily devotionals** each day found at [www.experienceheritage.org/blog](http://www.experienceheritage.org/blog). You can sign up to have them delivered daily to your email inbox by clicking here: <http://experienceheritage.org/Devotionals>.

- During your daily quiet time with God, read this **memory verse** and think about its meaning:

*And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man. **Luke 2:52 (NIV)***

- Watch the messages online at [www.experienceheritage.org/messages](http://www.experienceheritage.org/messages).

## **PRAYER GUIDANCE**

Have everyone submit prayer requests. Have the people in the group take turns praying for the requests.