

Guide for Growth Group Hosts

Spend Time With God (You Were Made For This)

THINK ABOUT IT

What impacted you the most from the message this week? Share it with the group.

MAIN GROWTH GROUP SCRIPTURE

*Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash. **Matthew 7:24-28 (NIV)***

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- In the verse above, Jesus explains that those who hear His words and do them are like a wise man who built his house upon the rock. What are some of the advantages to building a house on a rock? How can you apply this to your own life?
- (Read the Verse Below) God desires for us to be doers of His Word (the Bible), not just hearers only. What is the problem with building your house on sand? What do you think the sand is symbolic of?

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

James 1:22 (NIV)

- There are four simple parts to spending time with God: prepare, pray, meditate, and obey. When you prepare, it's important to be in a bright, comfortable, distraction-free place, with a bible and notebook. Where is your specific place and time that you spend a daily time with God? Share it with the group.
- (Read the Verse Below) Prayer is simply communicating with God. Below you will find 5 simple components of an effective prayer. Discuss them within the group. What does each component mean to you?

*Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun. Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him... **Psalm 37:3-7 (NIV)***

- During your prayer time you can confess your sins and ask God for forgiveness. Read the verse and sample prayer as a reference for the group.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9 (NIV)

“God, help me to have an open mind so I can hear from you today. I trust you with my life. I know you desire only what is best for me. I want you to know that I love you and I love being yours. You are so good to me. I want everything to be right between us. I confess that _____ is in my life. I’m sorry. I know that you forgive me through Jesus. Thank you! As I open your Word today, please have your Holy Spirit teach me and guide me in your ways. I commit my way to you today. I truly believe that your way is the best way. I will do what you tell me to do through your Word, knowing that your Holy Spirit will empower me. In Jesus Name I pray, Amen.”

- (Read the Verse Below) The key to meditating on God’s Word is to ask the right questions. After reading the verses below, apply the 10 questions to see what can be learned from the verses.

*Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. **THEN** you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.*

Joshua 1:7-9 (NIV)

1. What Captured My Attention?
2. What Challenged Me?
3. What Needs More Clarity?
4. What Did I Learn About God?
5. What Did I Learn About People?
6. Is There An Example To Follow?
7. Is There A Command To Obey?
8. Is There An Action To Avoid?
9. Is There A Promise To Claim?
10. Is There A Teaching To Believe?

DIVE DEEPER

Go deeper during the week!

- A great way to dive deeper and learn more about Jesus is by reading **God's Word** daily. Commit to reading for at least 5 minutes per day to start. Here is a bible reading guide to help you take your next steps in that area: <https://experienceheritage.org/next-steps/read-the-bible>
- Read the **daily devotionals** each day found at 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:

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

James 1:22 (NIV)

- **Watch the messages** online at www.experienceheritage.org/messages.

PRAYER GUIDANCE

Pray for everyone in the group to have consistency in spending time with God. Pray that everyone would be hearers and doers of God's Word.