



## Guide for Growth Group Hosts

### Week #2: I Don't Need To and I Don't Want To

#### **THINK ABOUT IT**

What did you enjoy most about the message from last week? How did you apply what you learned during the week?

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

*And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love... 1 John 4:16 (NIV)*

#### **DISCOVERY QUESTIONS**

- We learn an important aspect about God in 1 John. What does this verse mean to you?
- (Read the Verses Below) Sometimes people will avoid God because they feel they will miss out on the fun. Have you ever encountered anyone with this thinking? Based on the verse in 1 Timothy, what would you tell them to provide a different perspective?

*Doing wrong is fun for a fool, but living wisely brings pleasure to the sensible. Proverbs 10:23 (NLT)*

*...Tell them to have faith in God, who is rich and blesses us with everything we need to enjoy life. 1 Timothy 6:17 (CEV)*

- Sometimes people will avoid God because they think they'll become some kind of fanatic. Think of a local sports team in your town. Why do you think people have no problem being a "fan" in the arena but are concerned about becoming a "fan"atic with things that relate to God?
- Sometimes people avoid God because they think they'll lose their freedom. Think of an exercise example. Why do some people view exercising and eating healthy as restrictive? Apply that same example to God. Why do some people view being obedient to God as restrictive?
- (Read the Verse Below) Teenagers are often angry at their parents for their perceived lack of freedom. As sons and daughters of God, we sometimes find ourselves thinking similarly. The verse below points to the fact that there is freedom in Christ but restriction when living a sinful life. What would you say to a teenager who felt they had a lack of freedom? What would you also say to someone who was rejecting God because they wanted to keep their perceived freedom?

*Jesus said, "I tell you most solemnly that anyone who chooses a life of sin is trapped in a dead-end life and is, in fact, a slave." John 8:34 (MSG)*



- (Read the Verse Below) God wants us to experience the total freedom that comes from accepting Jesus into our lives. Discuss the differences between the freedom that Jesus offers and the freedom the world provides.

*"So if the Son sets you free, you will be absolutely free."* **John 8:36 (GW)**

- (Read the Verse Below) It's reassuring to know that God's love is wide enough to include everyone. If you met someone who avoided God due to the guilt of their past mistakes, what would you say to them based on this verse?

*The LORD is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made.* **Psalm 145:17 (NIV)**

- (Read the Verse Below) God's love is powerful enough to last forever. Discuss a specific time in your life where you felt the power of God's love.

*"I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness."* **Jeremiah 31:3 (NIV)**

- (Read the Verse Below) God's love is deep enough to meet your needs. What does God want us to understand about Him based on this verse?

[God says] "...with great compassion I will take you back." **Isaiah 54:7 (NLT)**

### **LIFE APPLICATION**

God's wants us to understand *how WIDE, LONG, HIGH, and DEEP His love is*. What does God want you to do with the love that He sends to you? Who can you show love to this week either at your job or in your family (particularly people who are difficult to love)?

### **DIVE DEEPER**

**Go deeper during the week!**

- A great way to dive deeper and learn more about Jesus is by attending the 101 Class at Heritage. You can stop by the Next Steps area in the Heritage lobby to sign up and get more information.
- 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>.
- Read the **Memory Verse** (next page) each day during your quiet time with God. See if you can memorize the verse prior to the next session.



*But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.* Romans 5:8 (NLT)

### **PRAYER GUIDANCE**

(During the prayer time, pray for the entire group collectively. Before you pray, check to see if anyone has a special request.)

### **Growth Group Checklist**

- (After the prayer, decide who will bring the snack next week and share any other announcements.)
- (Encourage the group participants to have a “quiet time” with God each day to study the bible and pray)
- (Encourage the group participants to pray for each other during the week.)
- (Remind the participants that they can view the message each week on our website:  
<http://experienceheritage.org>)