



GROUP GUIDE

Week of April 5

COMMUNION (10 minutes)

As we begin a new month, we are introducing a monthly rhythm of sharing in communion as a group. **Communion is an act of worship** — a time to pause, reflect, turn from sin, and remember what Jesus has done. This is an opportunity to remember Jesus and place your hope in Him as individuals and as the body of Christ.

PREPARATION Before you begin, gather some grape juice and bread (or whatever elements you have available that most closely resemble these). Once you are ready, follow the prompts below:

PAUSE & REFLECT Invite God to search your heart and receive His grace. "Search me, God, and know my heart." — Psalm 139:23

Prayer: Lord, show me anything that separates me from You. I receive Your forgiveness and grace.

RECEIVE THE BREAD Eat the bread and remember Jesus' body given for you. "This is my body, which is for you." — 1 Corinthians 11:24

Prayer: Jesus, thank You for giving Yourself for me. Help me follow You with humility and love.

RECEIVE THE CUP Drink the cup and remember His blood brings forgiveness and new life. "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins." — Ephesians 1:7

Prayer: Jesus, thank You for Your grace that makes me new. Lead me to live in freedom and hope.

SPIRITUAL RHYTHM: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION (10 minutes)

Last month, we practiced the rhythm of daily devotion. This month, we want to build on that practice by moving Scripture from "head knowledge" to "heart knowledge." As we read the Word, it shapes our understanding of who God is and who we are in relation to Him. **Scripture memorization ingrains this truth, moving it from mere information to our core identity.**

Our brains are designed to follow the path of least resistance; the more familiar we are with a thought, the more naturally we recall it. By storing God's Word in our hearts, we create a new "default" for our minds. When we are tempted by untrue thought patterns, memorized Scripture allows us to easily recall the truth and empowers us to live it out.



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Over the next month, we will memorize Scriptures focused on discipleship. We begin with the disciple's mission: **The Great Commission**.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." — **Matthew 28:19-20**

Aim to memorize Matthew 28:19-20 this week and come to your next group meeting ready to discuss how it went.

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 17- LUKE 21 (from the NT reading plan March 30-Apr 3): 50 minutes

Walk through each chapter one at a time from the previous week's reading, discussing the observations and what you learned from the Seek Out portion of your POST study. If you need questions to get the conversation started, we've included a few ideas below.

- Is there anything in this week's reading that stretches or challenges you? What might obedience look like?
- What stands out to you most in these chapters, and why do you think it grabbed your attention?
- What do we learn about God's character in these chapters?
- How does Jesus interact with people in these passages, and what does that show us about how He calls us to live?

TAKE ACTION (20 minutes)

What is God saying to me as I read His Word? What do I need to do to obey Him? Spend time praying individually, asking God those questions.

Share what you believe h\He is telling you through an "I will" statement. (ex: I will prioritize prayer by taking time to pray before I watch Netflix in the evenings).

POST STUDY METHOD

STEP 1: PRAY AND PREPARE

- **PRAY** - Invite the Holy Spirit into your time, asking Him to teach you and speak to your heart. Turn over anything that may be distracting you.
- **PREPARE** - Watch the Bible Project video overview for the book you're reading and write down any observations or questions you have.

STEP 2: OBSERVE

Read your chapter of Scripture multiple times for comprehension. Then, follow the suggestions listed below.

- **OUTLINE** - For this step, read the entire chapter and break it into sections that make the most sense to you. Outlining will cause you to naturally make observations you may have missed on a first reading.
- **ISPY** - Go through the chapter and underline or circle repeated words and phrases. Repetition is usually an indicator of something important. Look for answers to who, what, where, when, and why. Look for connection words like but, if, therefore, etc. They can help you see important comparisons, contrasts, and connections. Look for cultural and historical ideas that may be rooted in the culture at the time of the writing.
- **WRITE DOWN QUESTIONS** that come up as you study.
- **MAKE BULLETED LISTS, PARAPHRASE OR SUMMARIZE** what you observe by creating your own title for the passage.

STEP 3: SEEK OUT

Now read other translations, commentaries, and/or study Bible notes to check your work, gain further insight and answer any remaining questions from Step 2.

STEP 4: TAKE ACTION

1. What does this passage teach me about God and following Him?
2. What is God saying to me as I read His Word and listen to His voice?
3. What do I need to do to obey Him? (Make a tangible and practical commitment.) "I will..."

