

HOW DO WE DISCUSS SERMONS WITHOUT A DISCUSSION GUIDE?

Though it is our intent to provide you with regular discussion guides, there may be times when we have not been able to write them, or you may be meeting in a period of time that most groups are not meeting. This guide will help you think through how to lead a discussion from any sermon. You know the saying: “Give a man a fish, you’ll feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, you’ll feed him for a lifetime.” Let’s learn to fish...

Rather than using this guide with your group on the fly, it is important that you customize these questions based on the sermon you just heard *before* you meet. This document is also in Microsoft Word format so that you can save a copy and create your own guide.

ICEBREAKER *An Ice breaker question is a good way to kick off a discussion and transition into your primary content without that awkward “we’re going to get started now.” Try to connect your icebreaker to your first question if possible to allow for a better transition. (See a longer list of icebreakers in Life Group Resources)*

- If you could talk to any one person now living, who would it be and why?
- What's your favorite thing to do in the summer?
- What was the best thing that happened to you this past week?
- If you had this week over again, what would you do differently?
- What book, movie, or video have you seen/read recently that you would recommend?
- If you could do your dream job 10 years from now, what would it be?

[Note: In some cases the questions below will work just as they are written. Sometimes they will serve as inspiration for questions more relevant to the sermon. Use the questions that work, move on when they don't. It's rare that you will need them all. At least one question from each section is probably a good idea.]

OPENING DISCUSSION (Use 1 or 2 Questions)

- As you reflect on Sunday’s message, what one principle or insight stands out as being particularly helpful, challenging, or life changing?
- If that sermon had to be re-delivered, what two points or ideas would you encourage be included no matter what? Why?
- What’s one thing from the sermon that you hope we discuss as a group?
- Was there any one idea, passage or truth that you most agreed with or disagreed with from the message. What was it and why?

DIGGING DEEPER (1 or 2 Questions)

Read the main text or texts from the sermon aloud as a group. It is often helpful to read the text at least twice.

- As you read those verses, what stood out to you most? Why?
- In what ways do the verses we read grow your thinking about God’s character? How are you challenged to think about your identity?
- If our culture understood the principles/truths of these verses, what would be different?
- How are you particularly challenged by what we read?

APPLICATION (1 or 2 Questions. Answers may become content for corporate prayer or prayers throughout the week. If you don’t know about the Echo Prayer App, check it out in the App Store. It’s super helpful!)

- Where do you struggle most with this truth in your life?
- If you were to live out the truth that we discussed, what would be different in your life this week?
- How can we be praying for you regarding this or anything else this week?