



## **Sermon Group Guide Overview**

This document is a simple explanation of how best to use the Sermon based Group Guide. The Guide is just that . . . a guide. It is not intended to be a rigid path of steps that you must follow exactly each time. Instead, it is a pathway to help you accomplish the greater goal of helping people be transformed into followers of Jesus Christ. Each section of the guide aims to accomplish something important on the journey toward transformation. For that reason, it is important to spend some time in each section, even if you don't complete each section. Let me explain.

### **Breaking the Ice**

This intro section is provided to help your group engage each other and establish the tone of your group as interactive. You can easily come up with your own question from life or from the sermon that will help each person begin to relate to the topic of the day.

### **Understanding the Truth**

This section is designed to help people observe what the Bible actually says as well as what it means. It aims to focus on the big picture meaning of the passage and avoid rabbit trails that aren't the primary purpose of the passage. This section is important in helping people learn to read and understand the Bible for themselves.

### **Seeing Jesus Christ**

This section of the guide is intended to help people see the Person of Jesus Christ and how He is the ultimate fulfillment & focus of the Bible. Biblical Truth is important. However, when it is separated from the Person of Jesus Christ it will lack the love and humble attitude that God desires in each of us.

### **Making it Matter**

This is the "so what?" section of the guide. It aims to make specific application in life for how this passage should change how we live. It seeks to address our actions, attitudes and affections (desires) so that they become aligned with those of Jesus Christ.

### **Praying for God's Power**

This section allows us to share with others where we need God's forgiveness, strength and wisdom to live as the new creation that we are. What God desires for us He empowers in us when we pray.

### **Summary**

Now that you understand the format of our Sermon Based Group Guide let me share one simple way to prepare for your group. Prayerfully read through the guide in advance. As you do, consider which questions in each section are most vital for your group to work through so that you have time to navigate each section of the guide. Circle or highlight these questions and make sure you allow time to address them. You may even think of thoughtful follow-up question you may want to ask with some of them. Now read through the guide again and mark secondary questions that could be helpful should you have the time. That's it! You're ready.