



Rock Bridge Small Group Discussion Guide Compassion Weekend LEADER GUIDE

Leaders: Thank you for leading a small group at Rock Bridge!

A few notes on the new discussion guides:

- **Do not worry about answering all the questions!** The goal is to have biblically centered discussions that transform hearts and minds.
- **The win is Discipleship**, which is becoming more like Christ.
- **Disciples follow and obey Jesus**, so the new guide has a focus on action steps and follow up.
- There are questions to equip people to **study the Bible**. Encourage them to do so, and don't forget our "Time with God" devotional resource. Text 'TWG' to 888-744-0761 to subscribe.

Email us at discipleship@rockbridge.cc if you have any questions!

ICE BREAKER (Optional):

- What's the most shocking place you have ever visited, as far as being different from home?

MAIN POINT:

- *God calls us to greatness, a greatness of sacrifice and service motivated by the love of God. Read this out to the group as a type of road map for where the discussion should go.*

INTO THE WORD:

*Before reading this passage as a group, consider the following **Core Questions**. Read these questions aloud to frame up your discussion.*

1. What does this passage reveal about what God is like? I.e. Obvious statements, attributes of His character, ability, etc.
2. What are some key words or phrases and how do they help us understand what is being said?
3. Is there some kind of action that we are called to? A sin to confess? Something to thank God for? Someone I need to pray for or encourage? A behavior I need to change?

These are questions that can/should be used help teach basic Bible observation. Use the same questions each week. It is good to have them read the questions prior to reading the passage so that they read with the questions in mind.

Passage Summary: *In Philippians 2, Paul challenges us to model our attitudes toward others after Jesus attitude toward us. In 2 Corinthians, Paul sought to motivate the Corinthians to give to the poor. His motivation is not based on his authority as an apostle but rather on the transformation created by the Gospel.*

Read the Summary out before the passage. This will help set up the direction of the discussion.

Passage(s) to Read: Philippians 2:3-11 & 2 Corinthians 8:1-9

DISCUSSION:

1. Discuss your thoughts from the core questions listed above. Specifically, what do these passages say about God's heart?
2. As a group, talk about what greatness is as defined by these passages.
Greatness is living selflessly (dying to ourselves) and putting the needs of others first. It involves looking for ways to care for people and caring about their pain and hurt.
3. In verses 4-5 of 2 Corinthians, what do you think it means that they went beyond Paul's expectations? What does it mean that they gave themselves to God, and then to Paul and the other leaders?
Paul was amazed that they focused more on their giving as an act of love and worship to God FIRST, and out of incredible gratitude to God they gave to meet the needs of others. Their giving was an act of love to their heavenly father. Their lens for giving was a reflection of Jesus giving Himself for us.
4. Based on these passages, spend some time talking about why we should be grateful for what Jesus has done for us. Reflect on what He gave up coming to earth to save us.

APPLICATION:

1. List some practical ways that God's definition of greatness could be lived out today in our lives.
Sponsoring a Compassion Child and giving to the poor are obvious ones. Other ways might be caring for a needy neighbor, participating in a Rock Bridge HOPE activity, calling someone who is hurting and praying for them. This list is endless.
2. Why is it hard for us to see giving to others as a privilege? What causes us to not see helping others that way?

STEPS OF OBEDIENCE

- If possible, break into groups of 2-3. Commit to one step of sacrifice that you can make this week and tell someone about it. Commit to praying for one another to take that step and follow up on it at your next meeting.

PRAYER TIME

- In your groups of 2-3, pray for one another specifically for a deeper love for God and a deeper willingness to live for others.
- If anyone in the group has a special prayer request, make sure that is shared with the group.