



Group Leader Guide “Light” - The New Normal May 16-17, 2020

Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation; encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

// Message Summary

Ben Foote wraps up “**The New Normal**” by talking about what it looks like to be the Church when we can’t physically meet together on the weekends. Using a variety of Scripture, he shows us what being the Church means. It has very little to do with attending church services, singing worship songs, etc. It has everything to do with being a “light bulb” that shines the light of Jesus into the darkness of the world.

// Biblical Background

Isaiah: Isaiah is a book in the Old Testament that records the prophecies of the prophet, Isaiah. A prophet was a person that God used to bring His messages to the people. He would bring them warnings, instructions, and judgments. Isaiah started his ministry around 740 BC. Among the many prophecies, Isaiah contains some of the most famous prophecies about the future Messiah that would reconnect God and all of humanity: Jesus.

“City on a Hill”: Jesus said to the people He was talking to during the Sermon on the Mount that they were the light of the world. In the next verse, He gives them an illustration of a city on a hill that cannot be hidden. Though this can be thought of as a general metaphor, He was also speaking to people in the area of the Sea of Galilee. Everyone there would have had the perfect image in their mind as He said these words. A

city known as Hippos, or Sussita, was set on a high hill overlooking the Sea of Galilee. Jesus liked to use object lessons, and it is possible this is why Jesus chose to use this metaphor while near the Sea of Galilee.



Hippos sits on top of this hill

// In Preparation

You did it! You led a group for an entire semester! Thank you so much for your time, energy, and service. You are truly living out what Ben talked about this weekend. Take some time this summer to get some rest. It is totally okay to keep meeting as a group, but don’t wear yourself out too much. Take at least some time off and recuperate. Leading can be exhausting, and it tends to sneak up on us sometimes.

If you haven’t discussed with your group what you all want the summer to look like yet, be sure to take some time to do so.

// References

Currid, John D., and David W. Chapman. *ESV Archaeology Study Bible: English Standard Version*. Crossway Books, 2017.

For more information on the book of Isaiah, watch these awesome videos from The Bible Project: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/isaiah/>



Group Discussion Questions “Light” - The New Normal May 16-17, 2020

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// Bible References

John 1:1-5; Matthew 5:14-16; Isaiah 1:11, 13-14, 16-17

// Community Questions

1. What do you miss most about meeting at church on the weekends?
2. How was your week with Psalm 23? Did anyone memorize it?

// Core Questions

1. Before listening to Ben’s talk, what was your idea of what “church” was?
2. How did Ben’s definition challenge your thinking?
3. How have you fallen into the trap of making church to be just a list of “requirements” that needed to be accomplished in order to please God?
4. What opportunities come to mind for you when you hear that YOU are meant to be God’s “light bulb” in our dark world?
5. Describe a time when someone was a “light” to you.
6. Who could benefit most by you stepping into being the light of the world, as Jesus called us to be?
7. Read **Psalm 18:28-29**. How do these verses speak to the obstacles we will face when being the light of the world?
8. What is one thing that you can do this week to shine light into the darkness? How can this group support you in doing it?

// Challenge

Wow! The group semester is already over. And what a strange semester it was! Depending on what your group has discussed and decided, you all may be continuing to meet together over the summer or taking a break for a while. Either one is great. We just encourage you to take some time for yourself to rest. The challenge this week is to keep in touch with the people you have been growing closer to over the past twelve weeks. Continue to reach out to them to give and ask for support. Official “group season” may be over, but the community doesn’t have to be. Connect with each other over the summer (hopefully in person!). Discussion questions will still be posted every week, so there is still the option to meet together if you wish. But either way, don’t isolate and withdraw from your community. Be “light” each other and be the “light” together to the world! Have a great summer!