

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of July 5-11, 2020

“FRUSTRATIONS: THE STRUGGLE TO BE IN CHARGE”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: As your group begins, use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

If you were a refrigerator, what item would you hate having and why?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Luke 1:26-38.

1. What makes Gabriel’s news “troubling” to Mary (Luke 1:29)? Since Mary didn’t know the future, can you list out a few implications, issues or future frustrations that might have crossed her mind if she were to submit to God’s plan? (Remember, she was a young teenager who was engaged to be married.)
2. What progression do you see in Mary’s responses in Luke 1:29,34,38? How does Gabriel answer her question about how this could happen (verses 35-57)? Have you ever experienced going from confusion to questioning faith to surrender/submission?
3. *Discuss.* How would you answer a brother or sister who is struggling with his/her faith because of frustrations, worries, and problems in life?
4. *Share.* Pastor Nic talked about two realities though seemingly contradictory aspects of surrender, and it’s that (1) it should be complete surrender, and (2) it should be daily. How has this been your experience?
5. Read Psalms 131:2, 46:10. Pastor Nic suggested two simple shifts: (1) To pause and (2) to release and surrender. Discuss some practical ways that you can apply them this week. What other possible practices can you do on a regular basis in order to be able to reorient your mind on Jesus during your day?

6. *Discuss.* On a practical basis, how would you discern between surrendering control to God and relinquishing responsibility?

7. *Share.* “That which is in the hands of our heavenly Father is always better than that which is in our hands.” What is it that you are trying to control that God wants you to surrender to him?

8. [NEXT STEPS]

This week, let us be reminded of the two simple shifts: (1) to pause and (2) to release and surrender.

- I will develop the habit of being intentional to quiet my soul and refocus my eyes on Jesus everyday.
- I will daily remind myself to surrender _____ (write down that which has been a source of frustration, worry and discouragement for you).
- I will be discerning with my decisions and seek to glorify God.
- I will seek God’s will and count the cost of following Jesus.

Don’t forget to:

- Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God’s Word.
- Commit 30 minutes a day for God’s intervention in this fight against the COVID virus.

CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Surrender to God that which you’ve been trying to control. Pray for grace and strength to follow through.
- Pray for a closer walk with Jesus.
- Take the time to pray for our nation, for peace and for the gospel to prosper during this time of the pandemic.
- Pray for those who are hurting, going through fear, worry and anxiety in the group.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.