

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of July 19-25, 2020

“UNCERTAINTY: AN INVITATION TO LEAN ON A STEADY GOD”

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.

What if people suddenly lost the ability to get angry? How do you think people would express frustration and irritation?

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Read Exodus 13:17-22. What visible means did God lead his people during the Exodus? Why do you think God did not lead them directly to the Promised Land? What does this teach us about the way God leads? What would the challenge or difficulty be for the person being led? What would be the comfort?
2. *Share.* When it comes to the Covid pandemic and its related consequences and scenarios, what for you is the most uncertain on a personal level? What, in practical terms, would it mean to “leave the results to God” when it comes to what you’re dealing with?
3. Read Exodus 16:1-8. Note that by now the Israelites had already experienced the miracle of the parting of the Red Sea. What were the people complaining about? Why did they feel this way? Can you relate their grumbling to a modern scenario?
4. *Share.* Think about the last thing you complained about this week. What triggered it? Why did you grumble? Against whom does Moses say the people are grumbling (16:8)? As a Christian, has it ever crossed your mind that you are ultimately grumbling against the Lord?
5. Read Exodus 16:9-21. How does God provide for the Israelites? What were the instructions? How did some of the people try to circumvent the instructions? How is this an issue of the peoples’ sense of uncertainty? What does 16:35 say about God’s provision for them and what lesson does this tell us?
6. Pastor Nic said, “It is in the ‘confusing in-between’ that God does his best work, if we let him.” What were the three invitations of God to Israel during that period of uncertainty? Of these three, which is God currently inviting you?

7. Discuss some practical ways or share some past experiences about the two shifts for this week: (1) practice gratitude, (2) listen actively.

8. [NEXT STEPS]

In times of uncertainty, God invites us to lean on him.

- I will let God guide me.
- I will be more thankful and less complaining.
- I will be intentional in spending time with the Lord and seek to listen to his voice.
- I will be more alert to see the hand of God in order to cultivate a heart of thankfulness.

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:

- Pray for God’s comfort during these times of uncertainty and a closer walk with God.
- Pray for courage to take up God’s invitation to guide, to develop an attitude of gratitude and to ground you in him.
- 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.