



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week 6: The Significance of Scripture, Fall 2023

Worship Together | Prepare Disciples | Build Community | Seek the Kingdom

BEFORE WE BEGIN, < 15 minutes

If anyone from this small group is planning to attend the Bible Basics Class, please register asap! We need to know how many people to expect. The leaders of this class are excited about the content. It will be edifying for all who attend. The class provides an overview of the Bible's origins, arrangement, reliability, and authority. Plus, there will be practical guidance for better understanding the Bible and methods for personal and group Bible study.

Small groups are highly encouraged to attend the Bible Basics class together! There will not be small group discussion guides provided for those three weeks.

Right now, determine how your group will keep in touch during the weeks of the Bible Basics Class so you can be praying for one another. Consider dividing the group into smaller "micro-groups." This will make it easier to exchange prayer requests, provide encouragement, or even meet in person once or twice during the 5-week break (bye-week; three Monday evening classes; bye week).

Small groups will reconvene on the week of Monday, November 27.

[Save highlights and personal updates from the past week for the closing prayer time.]

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SMALL GROUPS TO CONSIDER, < 5 minutes

- The Blessing Board Furniture Donation Day This Saturday, October 21
- The Blessing Board, BBQ, and Beverages Event for Men This Saturday, October 21
- The Bible Basics Class: 3 Weeks to Help You Better Understand the Bible 10/30, 11/6, 11/13
Monday evenings in place of small groups

For more information about any of these events, visit the PHC website's registration page or email: communications@pleasanthillschurch.com

Follow the QR Code to go directly to the PHC Registrations page.



**That was a lot of discussion and planning.
Choose which small group members will lead each section, then... pause.
Take one minute of silent prayer before beginning today's Daily Liturgy.**

THE DAILY LITURGY, < 12 minutes

Opening Prayer

O God, you are our God; we earnestly seek you; our souls thirst for you; our flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. Because your steadfast love is better than life, our lips will praise you. We will bless you as long as we live; in your name, we will lift up our hands.

Confession of Sin & Prayer for Grace

Heavenly Father, you made us for your glory, redeemed us by your Son, and sealed us with your Spirit. Grounded in this new identity, we make our confession before you. We grieve today the many expressions of our self-centeredness. We are self-loving; self-serving; self-protecting; self-righteous; and self-interested. The habits of our hearts revolve around *self*, and so your glory does not shine brightly from our lives as it should. By your grace, forgive our sin and conquer our selfishness. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 34:27-35 (NIRV)

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Write down the words I have spoken. I have made a covenant with you and with Israel in keeping with those words." Moses was there with the Lord for forty days and forty nights. He didn't eat any food or drink any water. The Lord wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant law. Those words are the Ten Commandments.

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. He had the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands. His face was shining because he had spoken with the Lord. But he didn't realize it. Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses. His face was shining. So they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called out to them. So Aaron and all the leaders of the community came to him. And Moses spoke to them. After that, all the Israelites came near him. And he gave them all the commands the Lord had given him on Mount Sinai.

Moses finished speaking to them. Then he covered his face with a veil. But when he would go to speak with the Lord, he would remove the veil. He would keep it off until he came out. Then he would tell the people what the Lord had commanded. They would see that his face was shining. So Moses would cover his face with the veil again. He would keep it on until he went in again to speak with the Lord.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

New Testament Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:7-18 (NIRV)

The Law was written in letters on stone. Even though it was a way of serving God, it led to death. But even that way of serving God came with glory. The glory lasted for only a short time. Even so, the people of Israel couldn't look at Moses' face very long. Since all this is true, won't the work of the Holy Spirit be even more glorious? The law that condemns people to death had glory. How much more glory does the work of the Spirit have! His work makes people right with God. The glory of the old covenant is nothing compared with the far greater glory of the new. The glory of the old lasts for only a short time. How much greater is the glory of the new! It will last forever.

Since we have that kind of hope, we are very bold. We are not like Moses. He used to cover his face with a veil. That was to keep the people of Israel from seeing the end of what was passing away. But their minds were made stubborn. To this day, the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. The veil has not been removed. Only faith in Christ can take it away. To this day, when the Law of Moses is read, a veil covers the minds of those who hear it. But when anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Holy Spirit. And where the Spirit of the Lord is, freedom is also there. None of our faces are covered with a veil. All of us can see the Lord's glory and think deeply about it. So we are being changed to become more like him so that we have more and more glory. And this glory comes from the Lord, who is the Holy Spirit.

Prayer of Adoration

Holy God, we worship you acknowledging your presence and your grace that shines upon us like a radiant light. We pray for hearts that are open and receptive to your Word. Transform us by your Spirit so our lives will reflect the glory of your presence. Lift the veil from our eyes. Let us see your truth clearly, and may we be set free from the bondages of sin, fear, and doubt in Jesus' name.

Psalm Reading: Psalm 119:97-112**Prayer of Consecration**

As we meditate on this part of Psalm 119, Lord, we are reminded of the profound wisdom and guidance found in your Word. We come before you with hearts full of gratitude for the treasure of your teachings. Your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, illuminating our journey through life. We thank you for the wisdom and insight it provides. Help us to delight in your commands. Grant us the discernment to distinguish between right and wrong, to make decisions that honor you, and to live in a way that brings glory to your name. We ask for the grace to turn away from falsehood and deceit. Keep our hearts and minds focused on your Word, that we may not be led astray by the empty promises of the world. Amen.

Benediction

And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us now and always, until the day of Christ's return.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION: “REFLECTING THE WORD”, < 15 minutes

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1. The passage mentions that after Moses received the commandments, his face was radiant. What do you think this radiance symbolizes or represents in the context of the story?
2. The people were afraid to come near Moses. Why do you think they reacted this way, and what might this reveal about their understanding of God's holiness and presence?
3. What lessons or principles can we draw from this passage about the role of God's Word, obedience, and reverence in our relationship with God?

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4. The Apostle Paul says the Law written in stone was given with God's glory, yet it still “led to death.” What do you think he means by that?
5. What connection is Paul trying to make between the *physical* transformation in Moses' face and the *spiritual* transformation that believers experience through the Holy Spirit?
6. “The glory of the old covenant is nothing compared with the far greater glory of the new.” What reason does Paul give for saying this, and why is it important for us?
7. The passage emphasizes how the Spirit transforms us into the image of Christ from glory to glory. What are some practical ways this progress happens in the lives of believers? How have you seen this process in your life or the lives of other members in your group?

Psalm 119

For further reflection in the coming weeks: the psalmist describes God's commands with metaphors like the greatest teacher, the sweetest honey, the bright light shining on an otherwise dark pathway. How might you foster this kind of affection for God's Word?

CLOSING PRAYER, < 15 minutes

Take prayer requests. Then, each group member is encouraged to say a short, simple prayer for one other member of the group. A one-sentence prayer is enough.

Even while we are not meeting week-to-week, continue to spend time with God each day using The Daily Liturgy resource.