

Sermon-based Small Group Study Guide

***Opening prayer:**

Dear God, help me in this dialogue to be humble and suspend judgment. I recognize that we are all created in Your image. Give me courage to stay curious about each other by asking questions. Thank you, God, for this opportunity to meet together; and in so doing, grow closer to you. –Amen.

***Purpose:**

To actively pursue Christ through relationships as we worship, serve, and live in Christian community.

Sermon Series/Title: *Illumine series, sermon “The Word and the Word”*

Scripture foundation & notes: *Read the scripture aloud and compare/contrast the scripture from various translations. Wesley’s Quadrilateral is on the flip side and can help understand the context and consider how the scripture still applies in today’s world. The UMCburg app has a Bible portal; but you may also try BibleGateway.com, which provides a range of translations.*

John 1:1-14, 18

John 8:12

Psalms 119:105

Discipleship discussion point: *Discovering God’s power within us to face today’s challenges.*

In what ways do you feel the forces of evil at work in your life that you seek God’s guidance and would like for the others in the group to intercede in prayer for you?

Personal prayer requests:

Share a one or two sentence prayer request with the small group for this next week. Remember the prayer requests are about your life, not someone else’s. Include these requests in your prayers during the week.

***Close with prayer:**

(Sample prayer: God, we know that you have heard our requests; and we release all outcomes to you and your glory. It’s in your Son’s name Jesus that we pray. –Amen)

#Notes for leader:

- ☐ Opens each session by reading aloud (*) the opening prayer and the purpose before continuing with the discussion.
- ☐ Ask for a recorder to make notes for the session.
- ☐ Keep the session to 55-60 minutes, but close with prayer.

Wesley's Quadrilateral: *Reading the Bible is about reading for practice and spiritual formation in which the reader seeks to be formed by the Spirit of God. Wesley's quadrilateral is a method to review, reflect and study the scripture which is one of the works of piety. Feel free to use this tool to help understand the scripture.*

<p>Scripture: What questions do you have about the scripture? Consider the verbs and their meaning.</p>	<p>Tradition: Identify the circumstances/culture for the scripture selection. How does it compare or contrast to today's circumstances/culture?</p>
<p>Reason: What do you feel/think God is saying in this scripture? How can this message improve your faith?</p>	<p>Experience: How does this scripture/message apply to today's life? What life experiences have you had or known to which this scripture applies?</p>

Additional notes: