## **Discussion Guide for Small Group Meetings**

#### **December 7 - December 13**

(Based on Daily Readings for November 30 - December 6)

**Icebreaker Question:** If you could plan your dream day with no limits, time, money, or responsibilities, what would it look like?

Weekly Review (Hebrews 13, James 1-5, 1 Peter 1)

Hebrews 13 urges believers to live with love, hospitality, and faithfulness. James challenges Christians to live out an authentic faith through endurance, humility, and action, reminding us that real wisdom and righteousness come from God. 1 Peter 1 celebrates our new birth through Christ's resurrection, calling believers to holiness and hope in the midst of trials. Together, these passages emphasize living faithfully under God's will, trusting His sovereignty, doing good, and allowing faith to shape both character and conduct.

In your week's readings, what did you learn about God? What's one Bible passage or reflection thought that stood out to you?

#### **Read James 4:13–17**

- 1. In James 4:13–14, why does James remind us that we "do not know what tomorrow will bring"? How does that perspective shape how we plan our days (see Proverbs 27:1)?
- 2. How does the phrase "you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes" (James 4:14) challenge our sense of control or importance?
- 3. James 4:15 suggests we say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."

  What does it look like to actually live with that mindset in our careers or families?
- 4. How can balancing wise planning and full dependence on God's will (James 4:13–15) prevent anxiety or pride in decision-making?
- 5. Verse 16 warns about "boasting in arrogance." What might spiritual boasting look like today, and how can humility change that posture (see Proverbs 16:9)?

- 6. How does James 4:17, "whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin," redefine our understanding of sin and obedience?
- 7. In light of James 4:13–17, how can we cultivate daily habits that keep us surrendered to God's will without losing enthusiasm for planning and dreaming big?

## **Discussion Guide for Small Group Meetings**

#### December 14 - December 20

(Based on Daily Readings for December 7 - December 13)

**Icebreaker Question:** What's a wild story or rumor you once believed as a kid until you found out it wasn't true?

## Weekly Review (1 Peter 2-5, 2 Peter 1-3)

1 Peter 2–5 calls followers of Jesus to humility, perseverance, and faithfulness under trials. In 2 Peter 1–3, Peter urges growth in spiritual maturity, warns against false teachers, and reminds believers to trust the certainty of God's promises and the truth of Scripture. Together, these chapters emphasize living with integrity, confidence in God's Word, and hope in Christ's return.

In your week's readings, what did you learn about God? What's one Bible passage or reflection thought that stood out to you?

#### Read 2 Peter 1:16-21

- 1. In 2 Peter 1:16, Peter insists that the apostles didn't follow "cleverly devised myths." How can believers today recognize and resist modern-day "myths" about faith or spirituality?
- 2. Peter shares his firsthand experience of Jesus' transfiguration (2 Peter 1:17–18). How does personal experience strengthen, but never replace, our confidence in God's Word?
- 3. According to 2 Peter 1:19, why is Scripture called "a lamp shining in a dark place," and how does that image speak to life in today's culture (see Psalm 119:105)?
- 4. How can we let the "morning star" rising in our hearts (2 Peter 1:19) renew our hope and perspective in challenging seasons?
- 5. Verses 20–21 remind us that prophecy didn't come from human will but from the Holy Spirit. How does this truth deepen your trust in the Bible's reliability?

- 6. What practical steps can help us discern between human opinion and Spirit-inspired truth when studying Scripture or listening to teaching (see 1 John 4:1)?
- 7. How does 2 Peter 1:16–21 challenge you personally to be more confident in sharing or defending your faith as truth, not just belief?

## **Discussion Guide for Small Group Meetings**

#### December 21 - December 27

(Based on Daily Readings for December 14 - December 20)

**Icebreaker Question:** What's something you were completely sure about as a kid but turned out to be totally wrong?

Weekly Review (1 John 1-5, 2 John, 3 John)

In 1 John, John exposes false teachings and reassures believers of eternal life through faith in the Son. 2 John urges steadfastness in truth and love while warning against deception. 3 John celebrates hospitality and faithfulness among believers. Together, these letters call Christians to live confidently, love authentically, and rest in the certainty of God's testimony about His Son.

In your week's readings, what did you learn about God? What's one Bible passage or reflection thought that stood out to you?

#### Read 1 John 5:6-13

- 1. John writes that Jesus came "by water and blood" (1 John 5:6). What do you think this phrase reveals about both His humanity and His mission?
- 2. How does the Holy Spirit "testify" about Jesus in our lives today (1 John 5:6–8)? Can you think of a moment when the Spirit helped you discern truth?
- 3. In 1 John 5:9, why does John say God's testimony about His Son is greater than human testimony, and how might that challenge our dependence on worldly opinions?
- 4. Verse 10 describes believers having the testimony of God "within" them. How does this inner assurance strengthen your confidence in difficult seasons (see Romans 8:16)?
- 5. 1 John 5:11–12 clearly states that eternal life is found only in Jesus. How does this truth reshape the way you think about success, identity, or purpose?

- 6. What does John mean when he says he writes "that you may know you have eternal life" (1 John 5:13)? How does certainty in salvation impact daily peace and courage?
- 7. How might we better share the assurance of 1 John 5:13 with those who doubt their faith or fear they aren't "good enough"? What Scriptures could help reinforce that assurance (see John 10:27–29)?

# **Discussion Guide for Small Group Meetings**

# **December 28 - January 3**

(Based on Daily Readings for December 21 - December 27)

**Icebreaker Question:** If you could attend any concert or event in history, front row seats included, which one would it be and why?

Weekly Review (Jude, Revelation 1 - 5, 15)

Jude calls believers to defend their faith against false teachers and remain steadfast in God's love. Revelation 1 unveils the glorified Christ among His churches, while chapters 2–3 deliver His messages of encouragement and correction to them. Chapter 4 lifts John into heaven's throne room, where endless worship centers on God's holiness and majesty. Chapter 5 reveals the Lamb as worthy to open the scroll of redemption, and chapter 15 celebrates God's righteous judgment and ultimate victory.

In your week's readings, what did you learn about God? What's one Bible passage or reflection thought that stood out to you?

#### Read Revelation 4:1-11

- 1. In Revelation 4:1, John is invited to "come up here." How might this remind us that worship often begins with a change in perspective, lifting our eyes from earth to heaven?
- 2. The throne in verse 2 is central to the vision. What does God's throne represent to you personally, and how does that truth bring comfort in uncertain times (see Psalm 103:19)?
- 3. Revelation 4:3 describes colors of jasper and carnelian around the throne. Why do you think John uses such vivid imagery, and what do these details say about God's glory?
- 4. The twenty-four elders in verse 4 cast their crowns before the throne. What does this act teach us about humility and the proper response to God's greatness (see Philippians 2:10–11)?

- 5. In verses 6–8, the living creatures never stop declaring, "Holy, holy, holy." What does this reveal about God's nature, and how could regular worship reshape your daily priorities?
- 6. The elders proclaim that God is worthy because He created all things (Revelation 4:11). How does recognizing God as Creator deepen your gratitude and trust in Him?
- 7. Heaven's worship in this chapter is both reverent and joyful. How can your church, family, or personal worship reflect that same blend of awe and celebration (see Psalm 150:1–6)?